

R. GOSCINNY **Asterix** A. UDERZO

Asterix AND THE **BLACK GOLD**

Written and illustrated by Albert UDERZO



GOSCINNY AND UDERZO

PRESENT

An Asterix Adventure

ASTERIX AND THE BLACK GOLD

Written and Illustrated by ALBERT UDERZO

Translated by Anthea Bell *and* Derek Hockridge



à René

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THE YEAR IS 50 BC. GAUL IS ENTIRELY OCCUPIED BY THE ROMANS. WELL, NOT ENTIRELY ... ONE SMALL VILLAGE OF INDOMITABLE GAULS STILL HOLDS OUT AGAINST THE INVADERS. AND LIFE IS NOT EASY FOR THE ROMAN LEGIONARIES WHO GARRISON THE FORTIFIED CAMPS OF TOTORUM, AQUARIUM, LAUDANUM AND COMPENDIUM ...



ASTERIX, THE HERO OF THESE ADVENTURES. A SHREWD, CUNNING LITTLE WARRIOR, ALL PERILOUS MISSIONS ARE IMMEDIATELY ENTRUSTED TO HIM. ASTERIX GETS HIS SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH FROM THE MAGIC POTION BREWED BY THE DRUID GETAFIX . . .



OBELIX, ASTERIX'S INSEPARABLE FRIEND. A MENHIR DELIVERY MAN BY TRADE, ADDICTED TO WILD BOAR. OBELIX IS ALWAYS READY TO DROP EVERYTHING AND GO OFF ON A NEW ADVENTURE WITH ASTERIX - SO LONG AS THERE'S WILD BOAR TO EAT, AND PLENTY OF FIGHTING. HIS CONSTANT COMPANION IS DOGMATIX, THE ONLY KNOWN CANINE ECOLOGIST, WHO HOWLS WITH DESPAIR WHEN A TREE IS CUT DOWN.



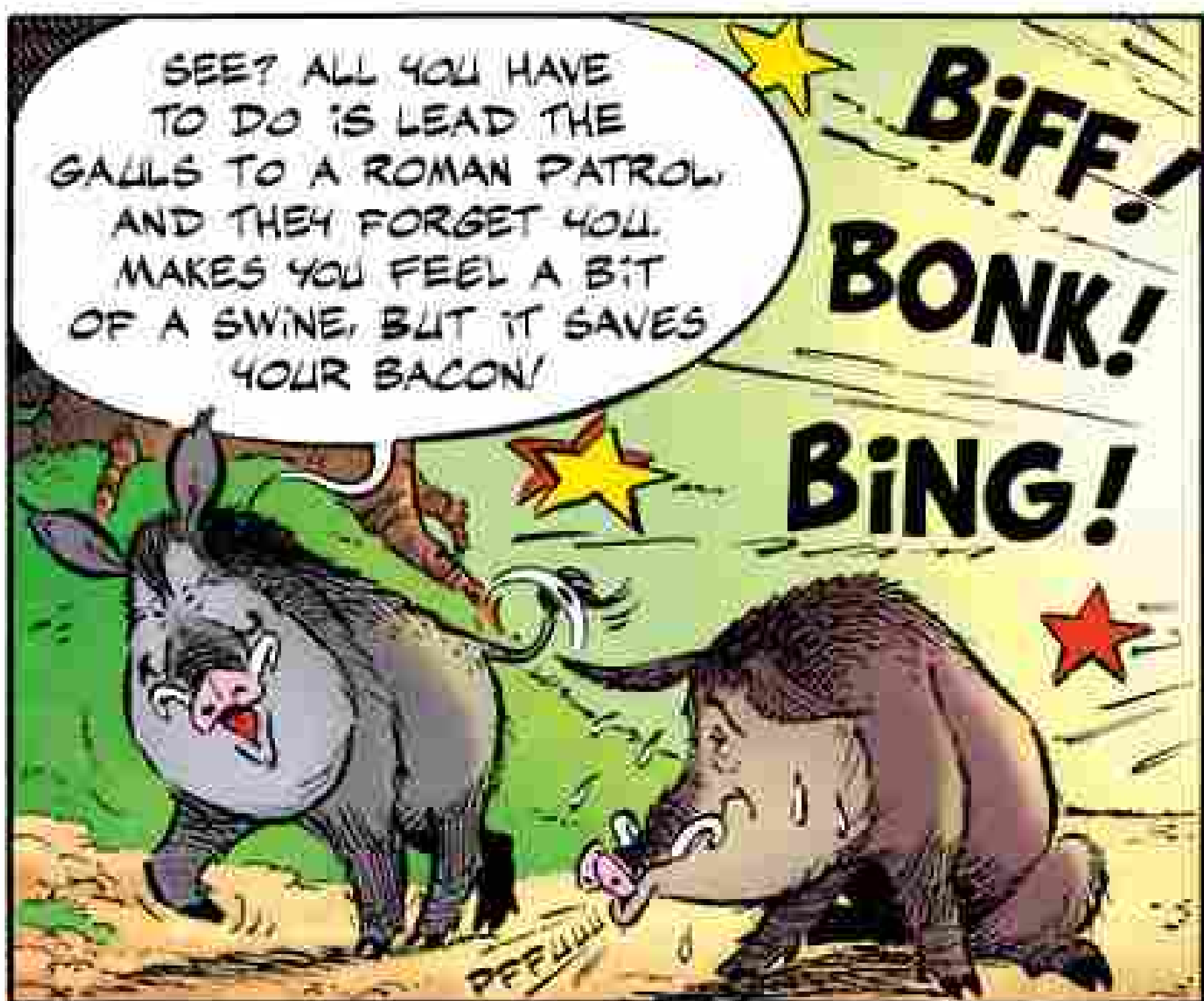
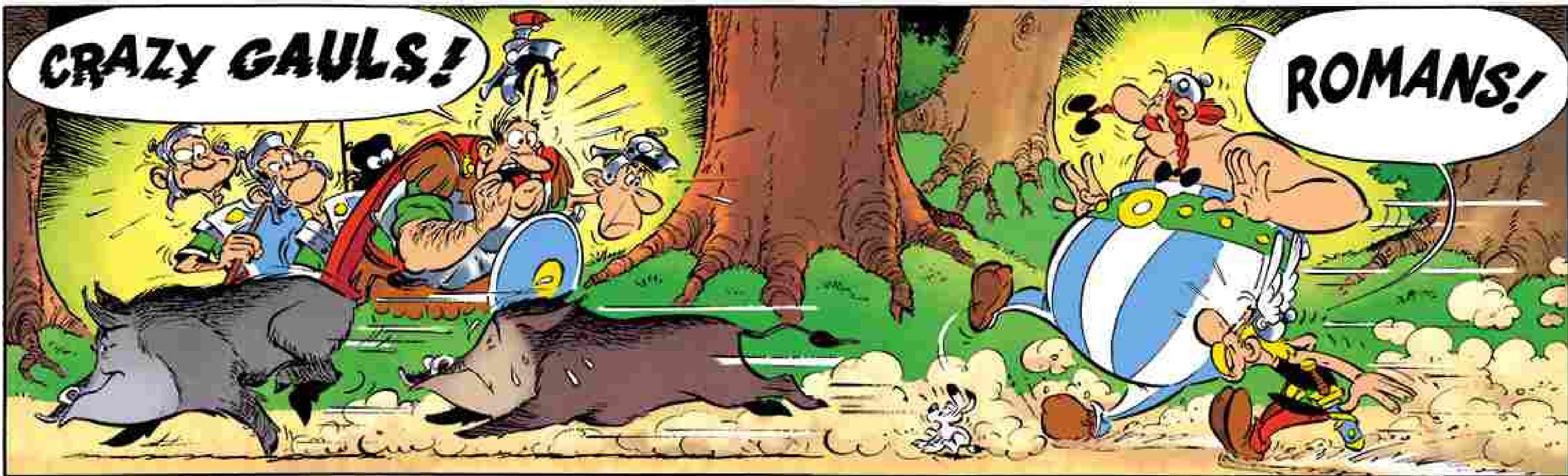
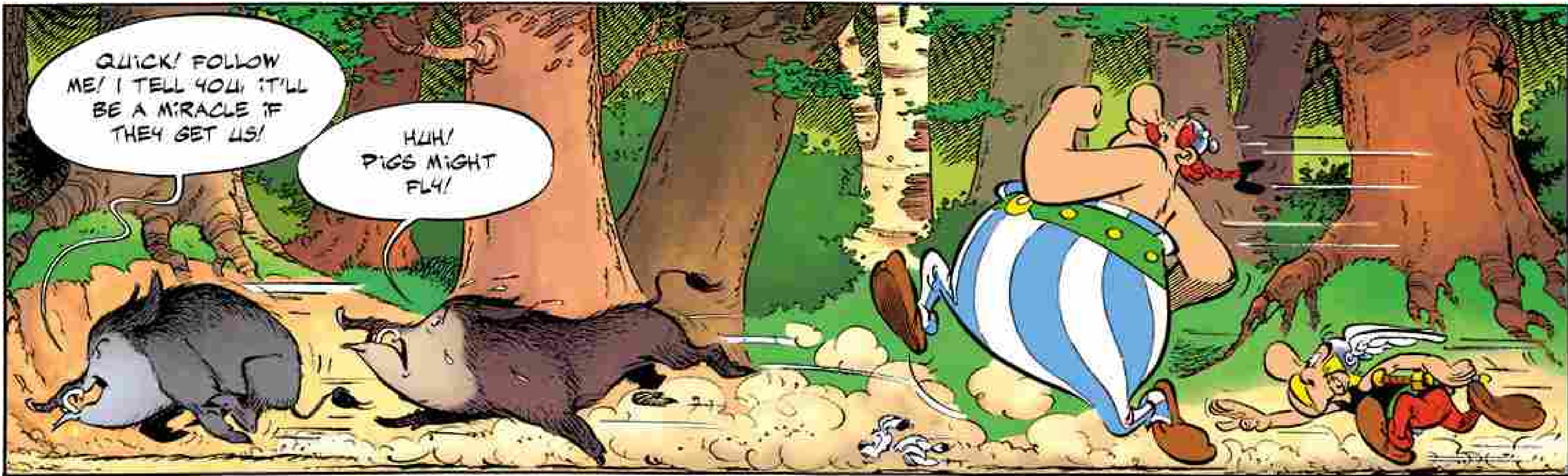
GETAFIX, THE VENERABLE VILLAGE DRUID, GATHERS MISTLETOE AND BREWS MAGIC POTIONS. HIS SPECIALITY IS THE POTION WHICH GIVES THE DRINKER SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH. BUT GETAFIX ALSO HAS OTHER RECIPES UP HIS SLEEVE . . .

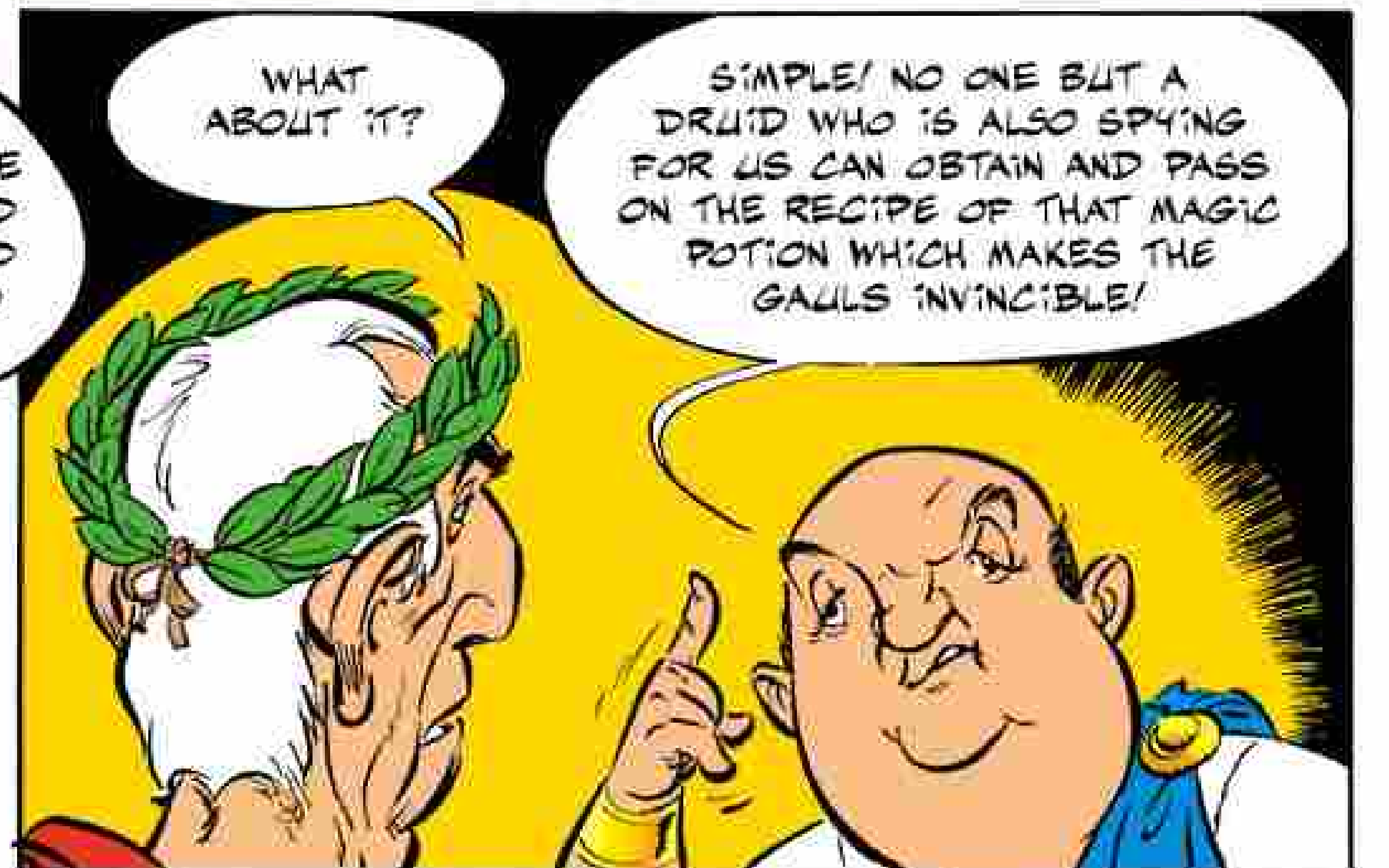
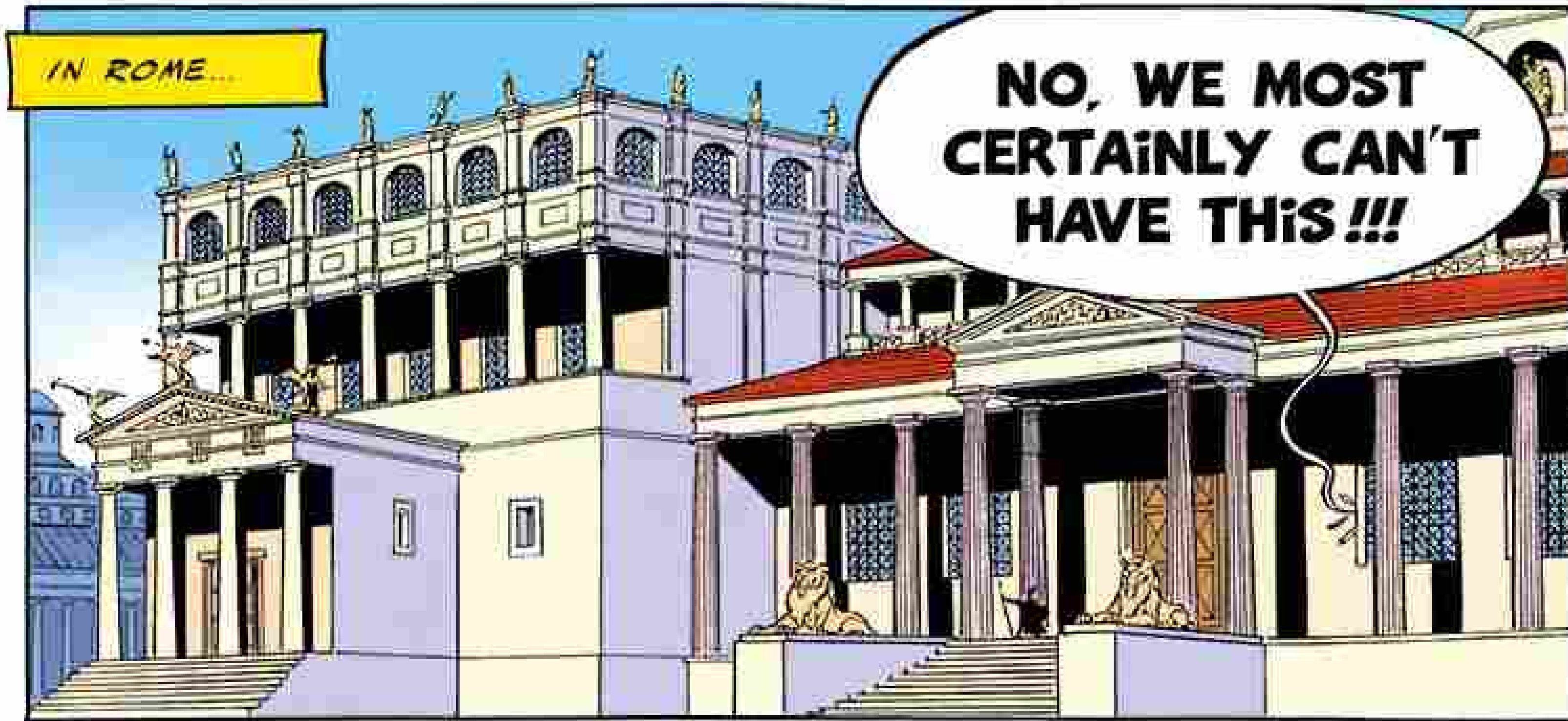


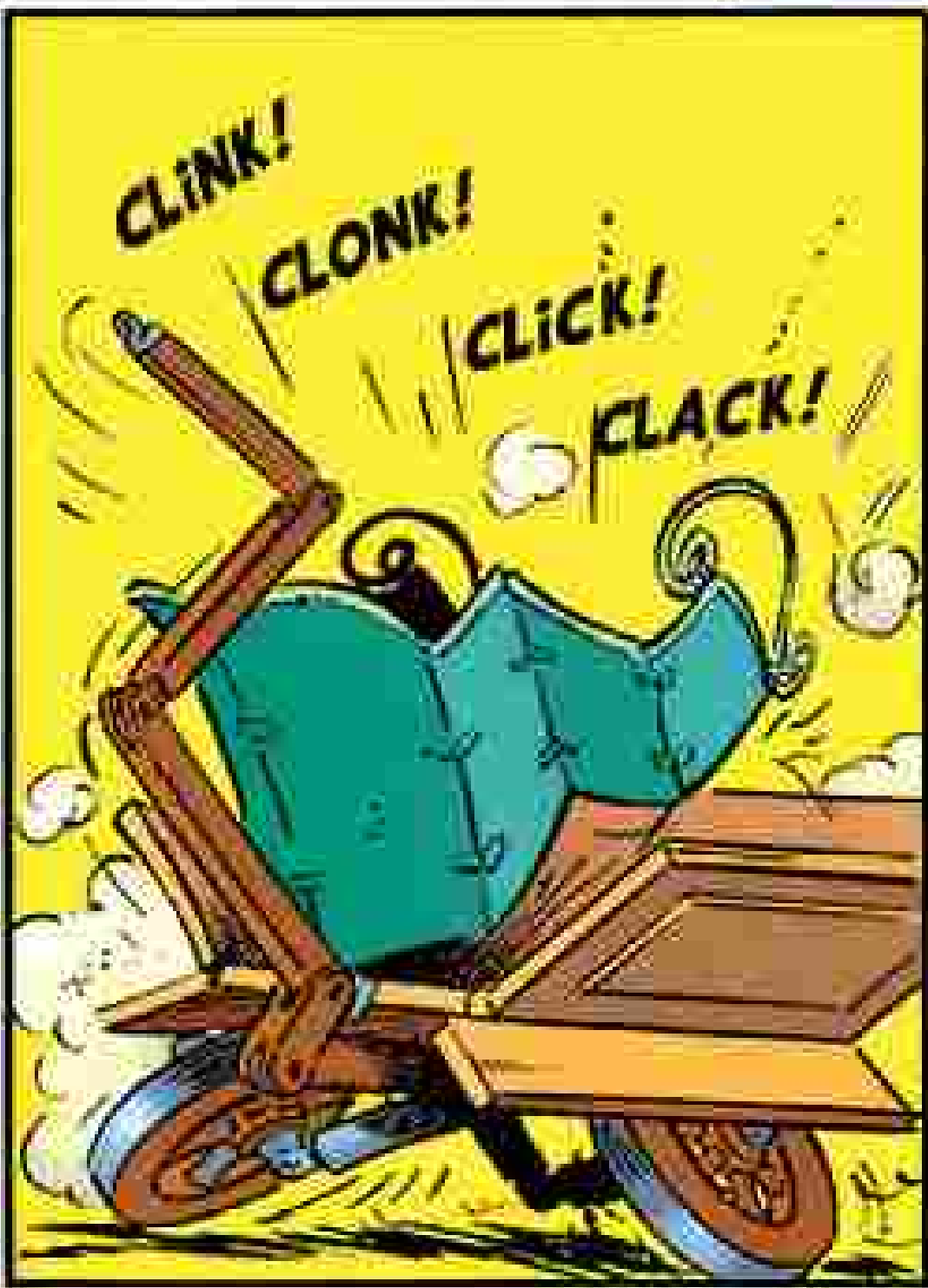
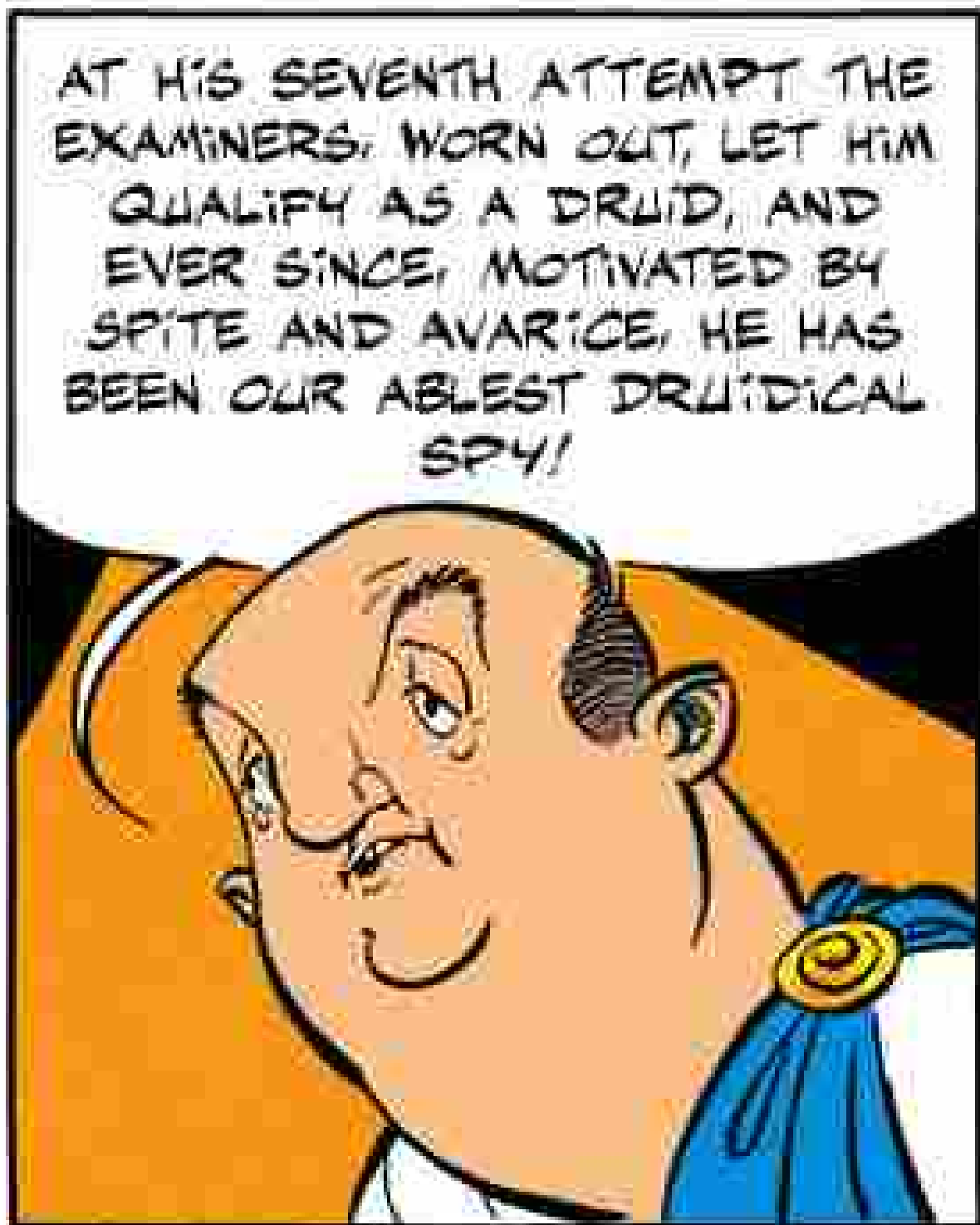
CACOFONIX, THE BARD. OPINION IS DIVIDED AS TO HIS MUSICAL GIFTS. CACOFONIX THINKS HE'S A GENIUS. EVERYONE ELSE THINKS HE'S UNSPEAKABLE. BUT SO LONG AS HE DOESN'T SPEAK, LET ALONE SING, EVERYBODY LIKES HIM . . .

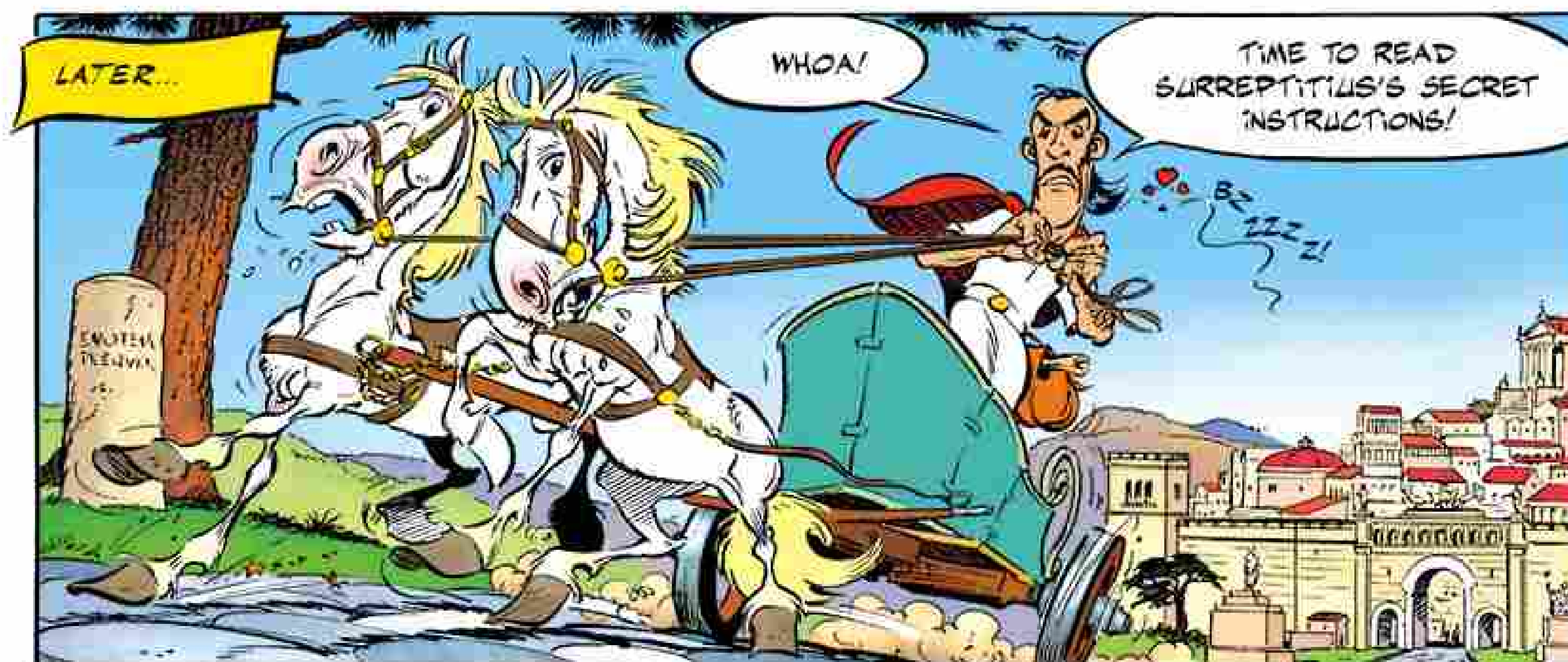


FINALLY, VITALSTATISTIX, THE CHIEF OF THE TRIBE. MAJESTIC, BRAVE AND HOT-TEMPERED, THE OLD WARRIOR IS RESPECTED BY HIS MEN AND FEARED BY HIS ENEMIES. VITALSTATISTIX HIMSELF HAS ONLY ONE FEAR, HE IS AFRAID THE SKY MAY FALL ON HIS HEAD TOMORROW. BUT AS HE ALWAYS SAYS, TOMORROW NEVER COMES.

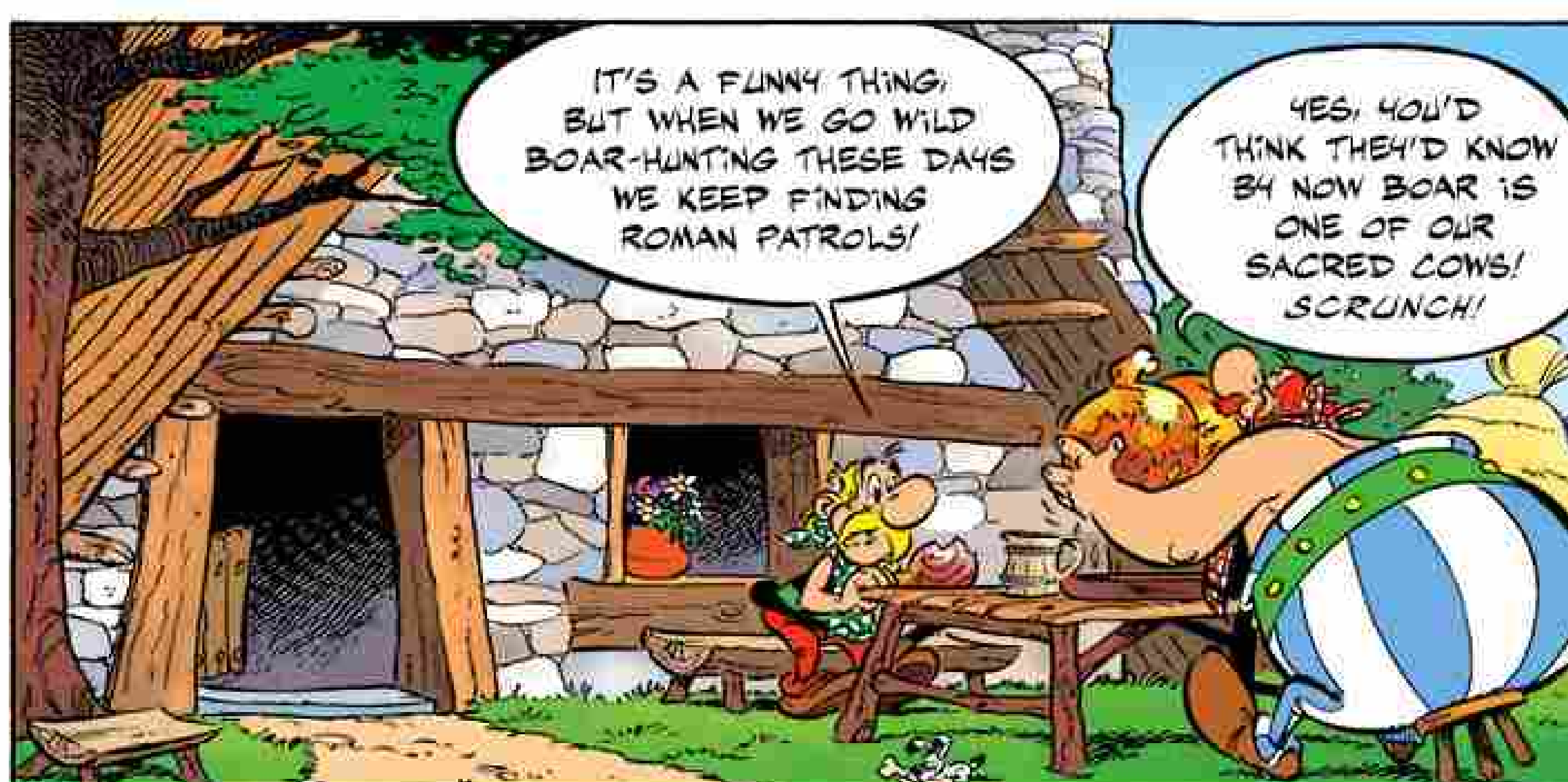


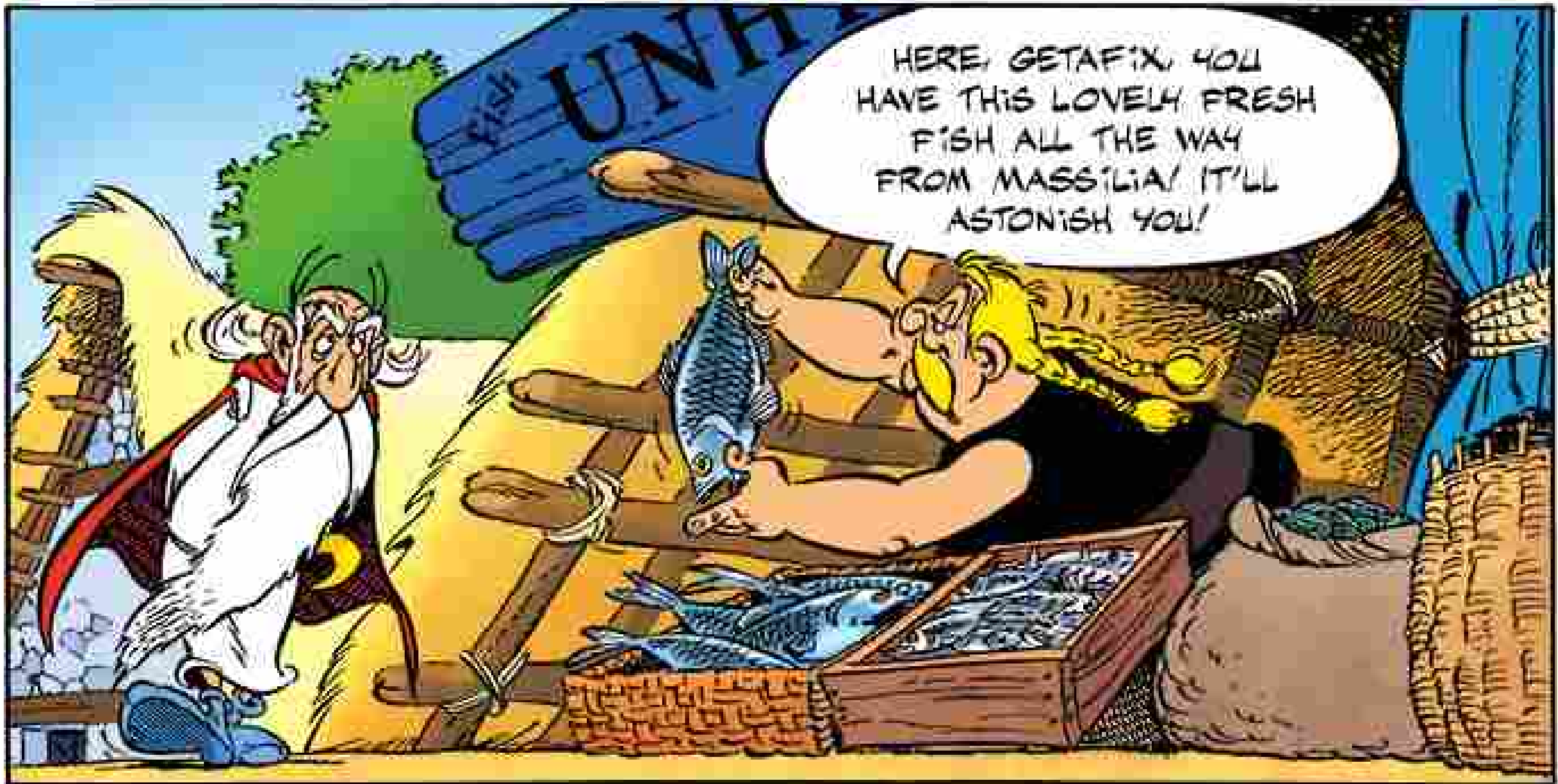
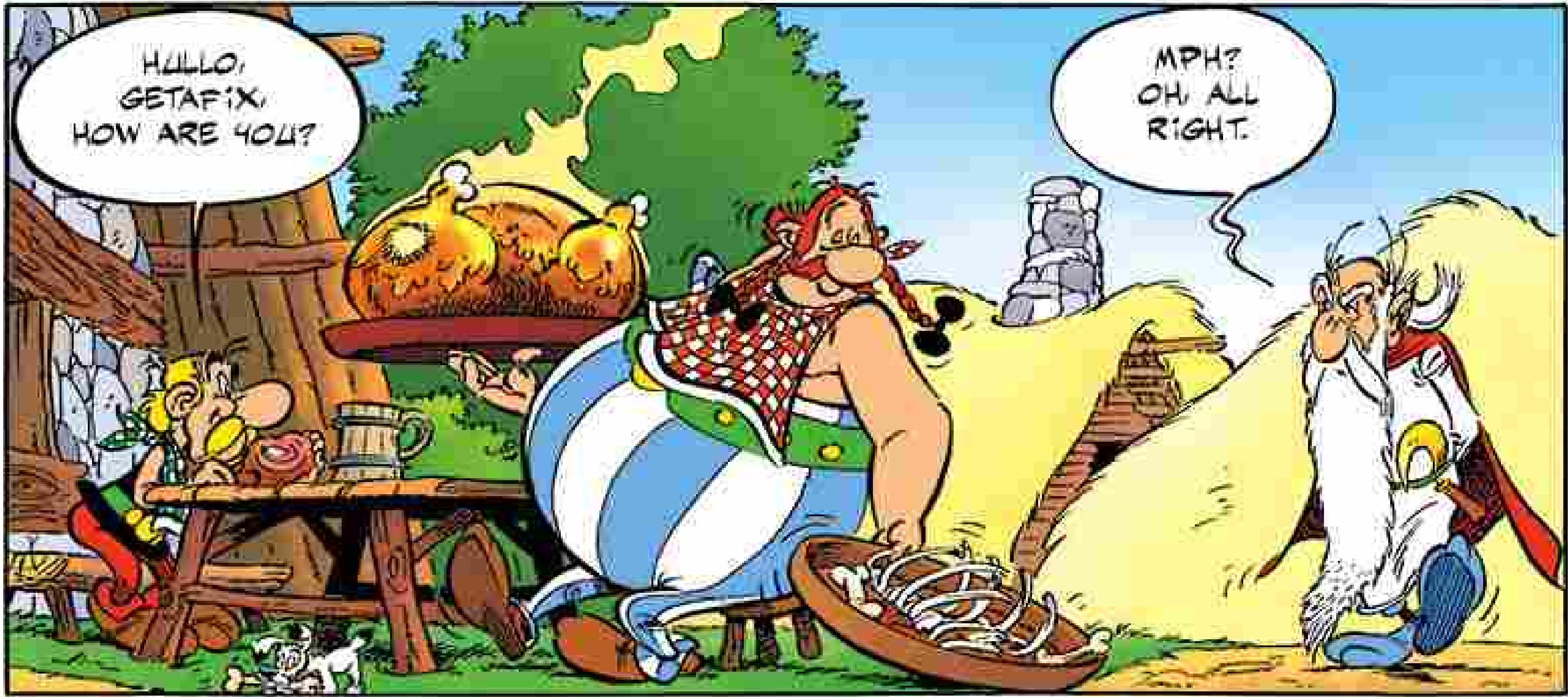


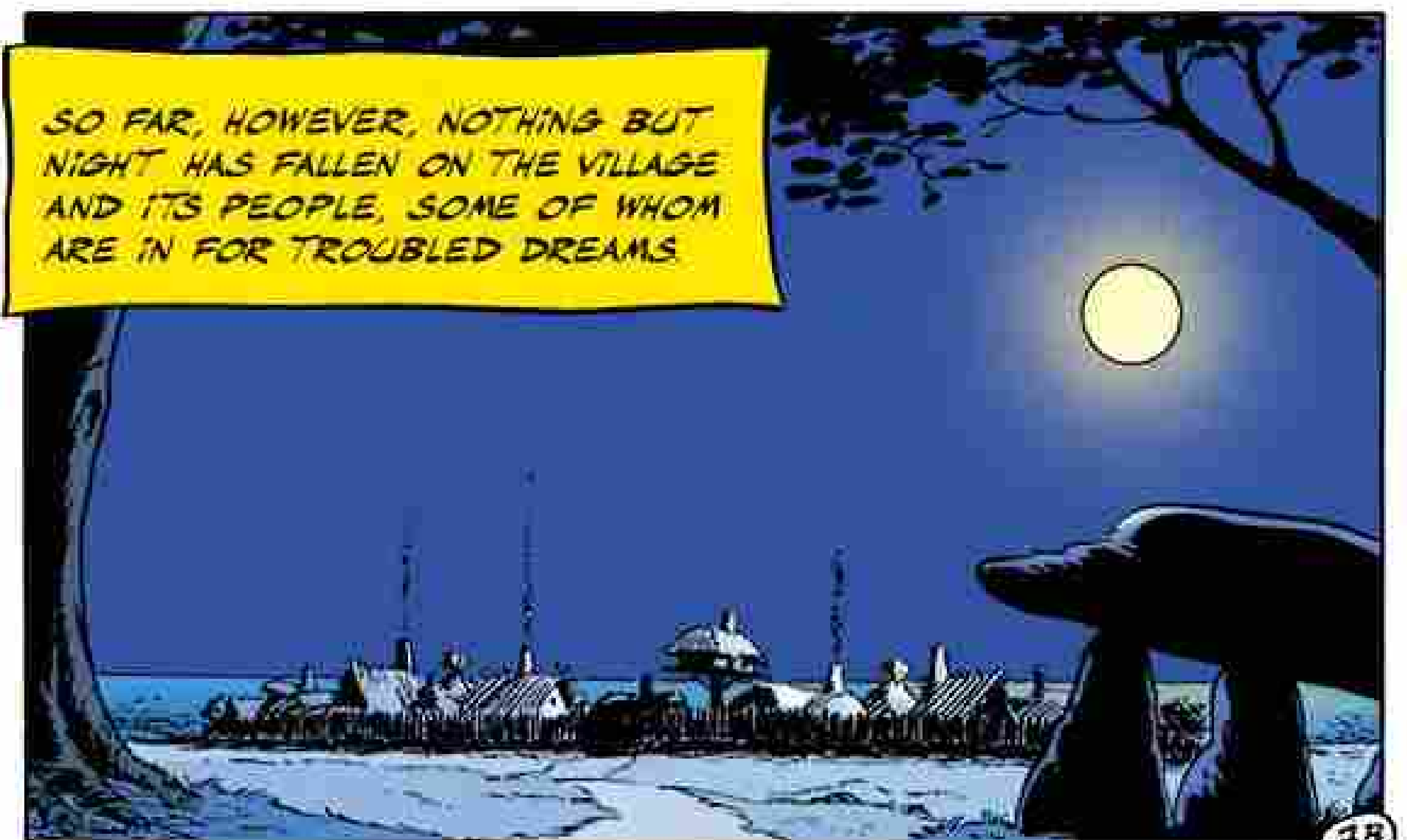
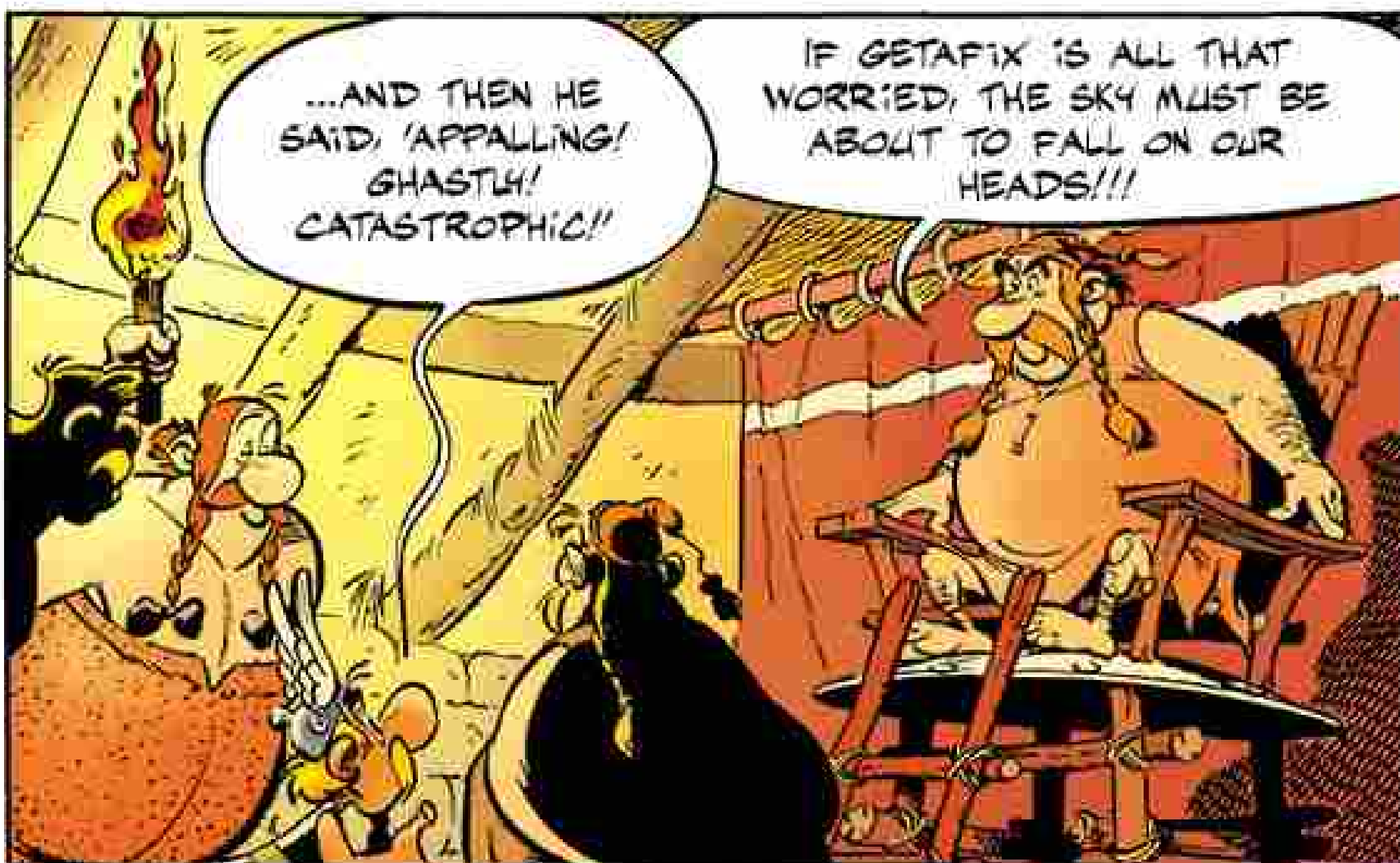
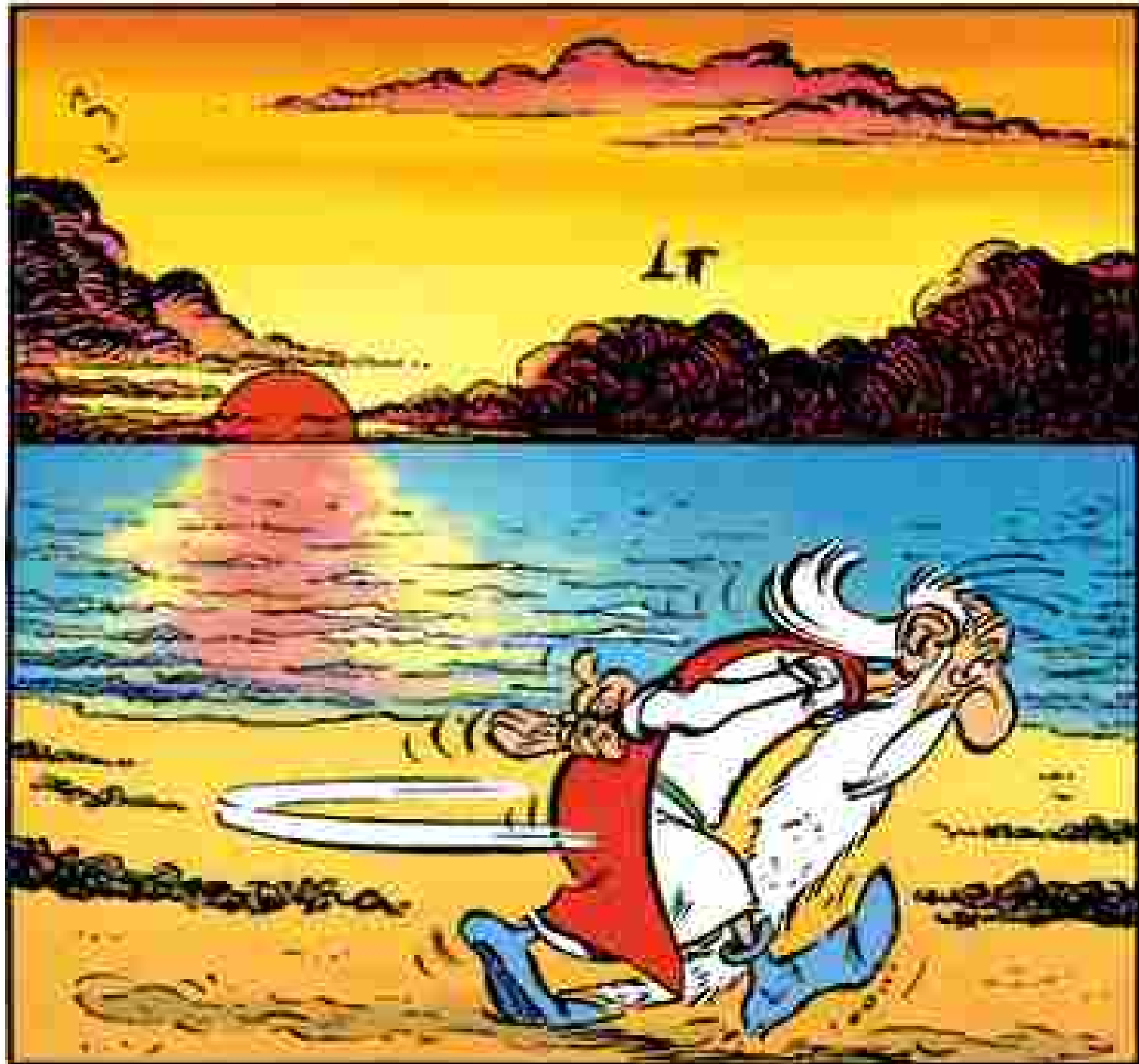


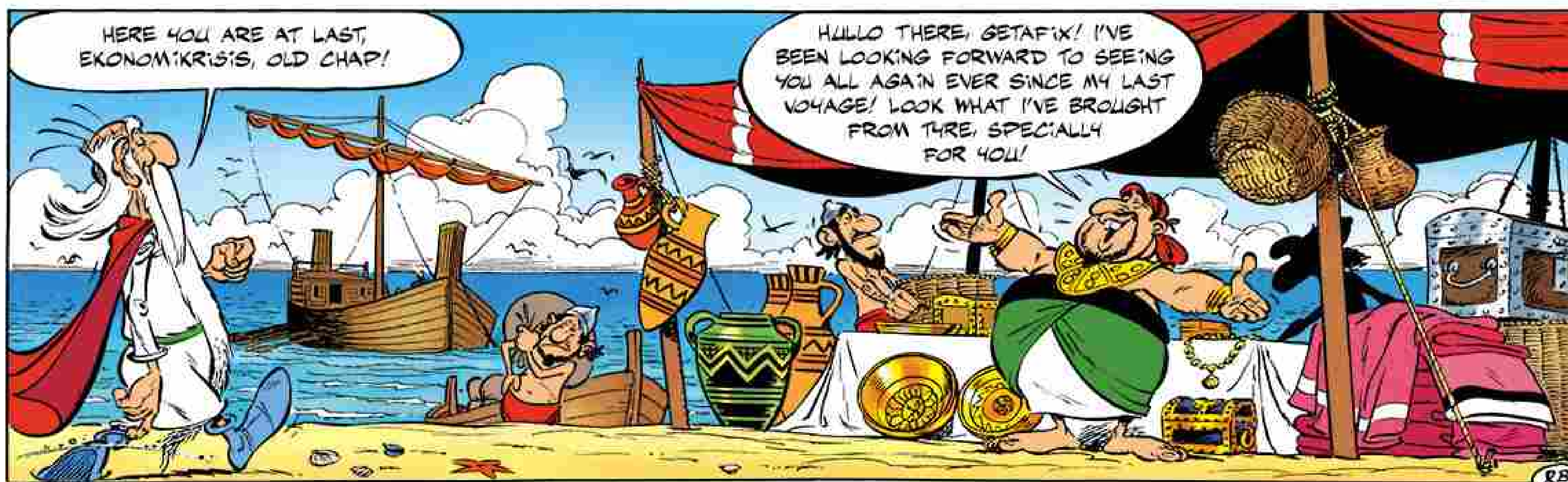


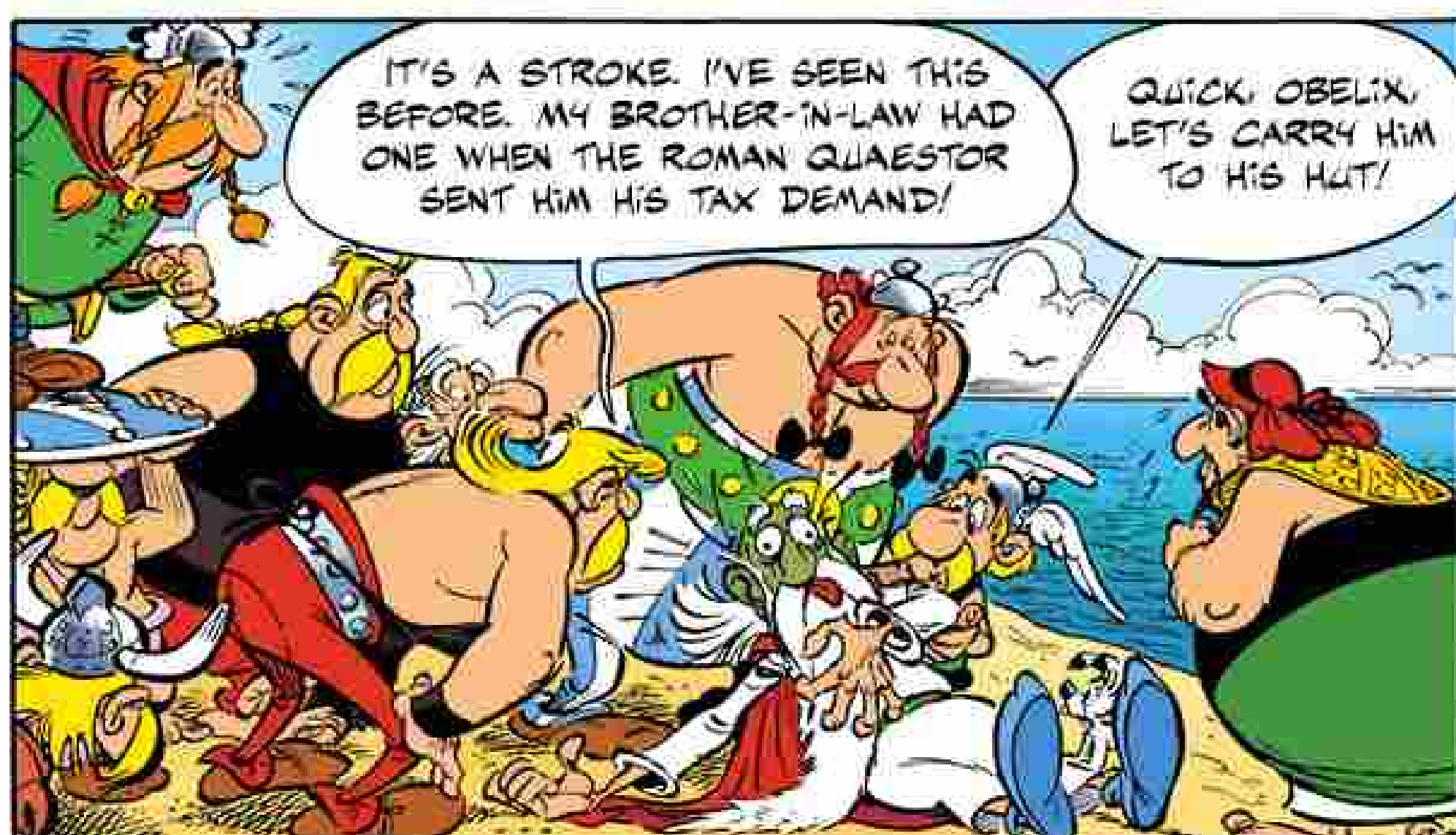
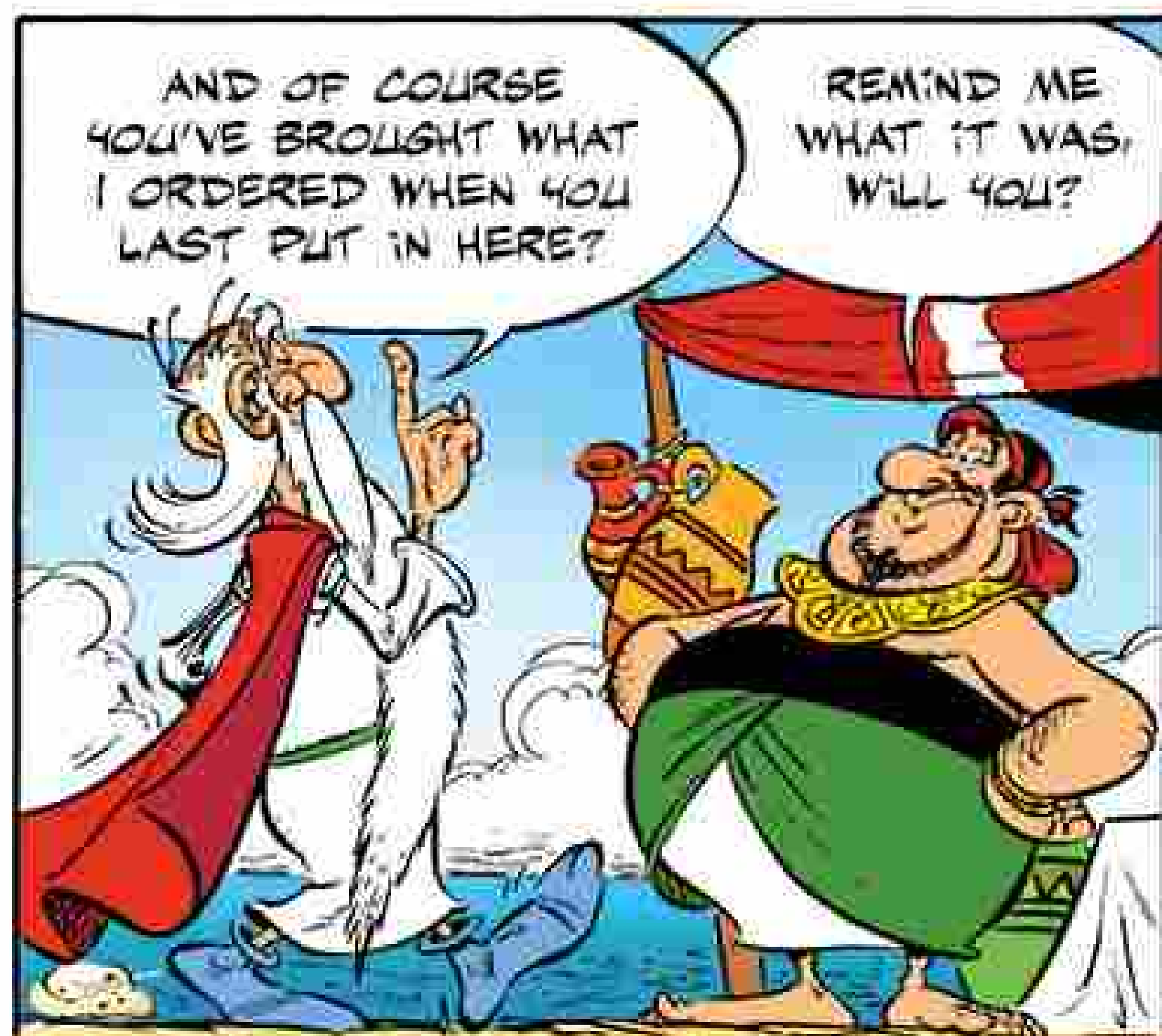
MEANWHILE, ON THE ARMORICAN COAST, ALL IS PEACEFUL IN THE LITTLE GAULISH VILLAGE WHERE ASTERIX AND HIS FRIENDS LIVE.

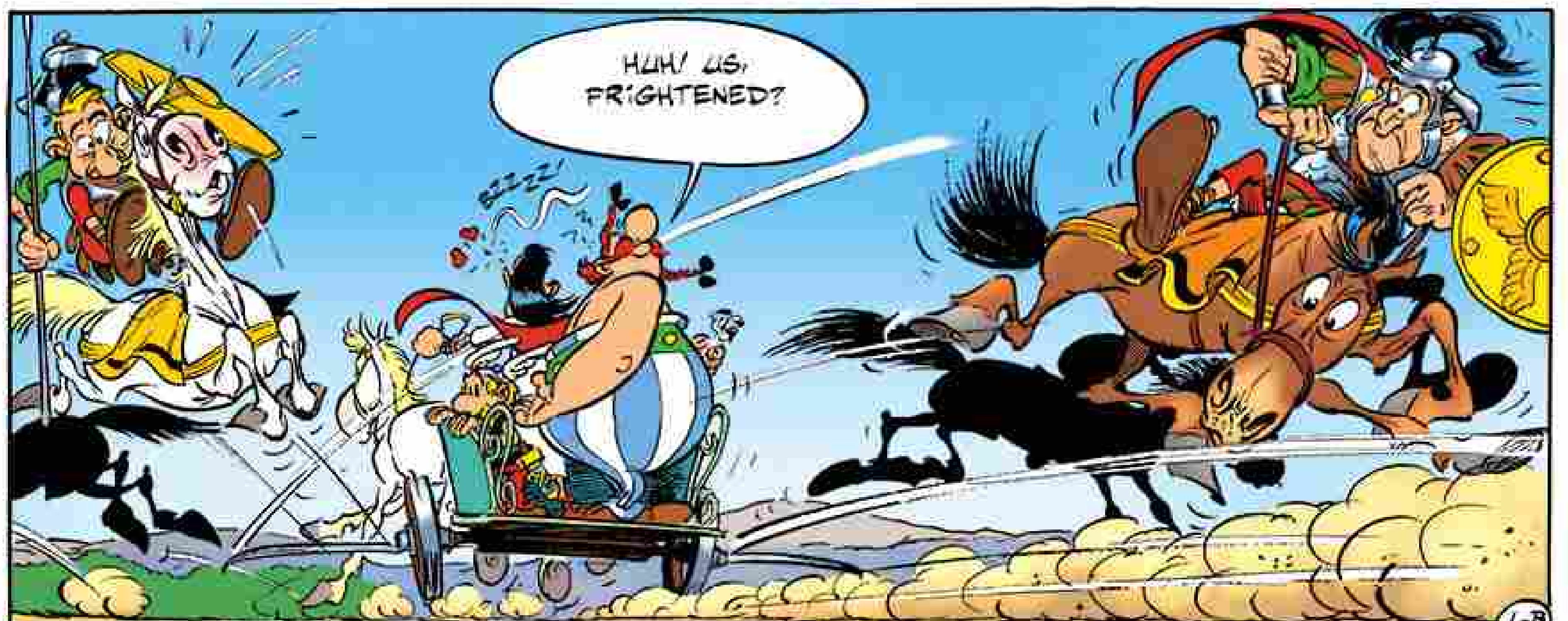
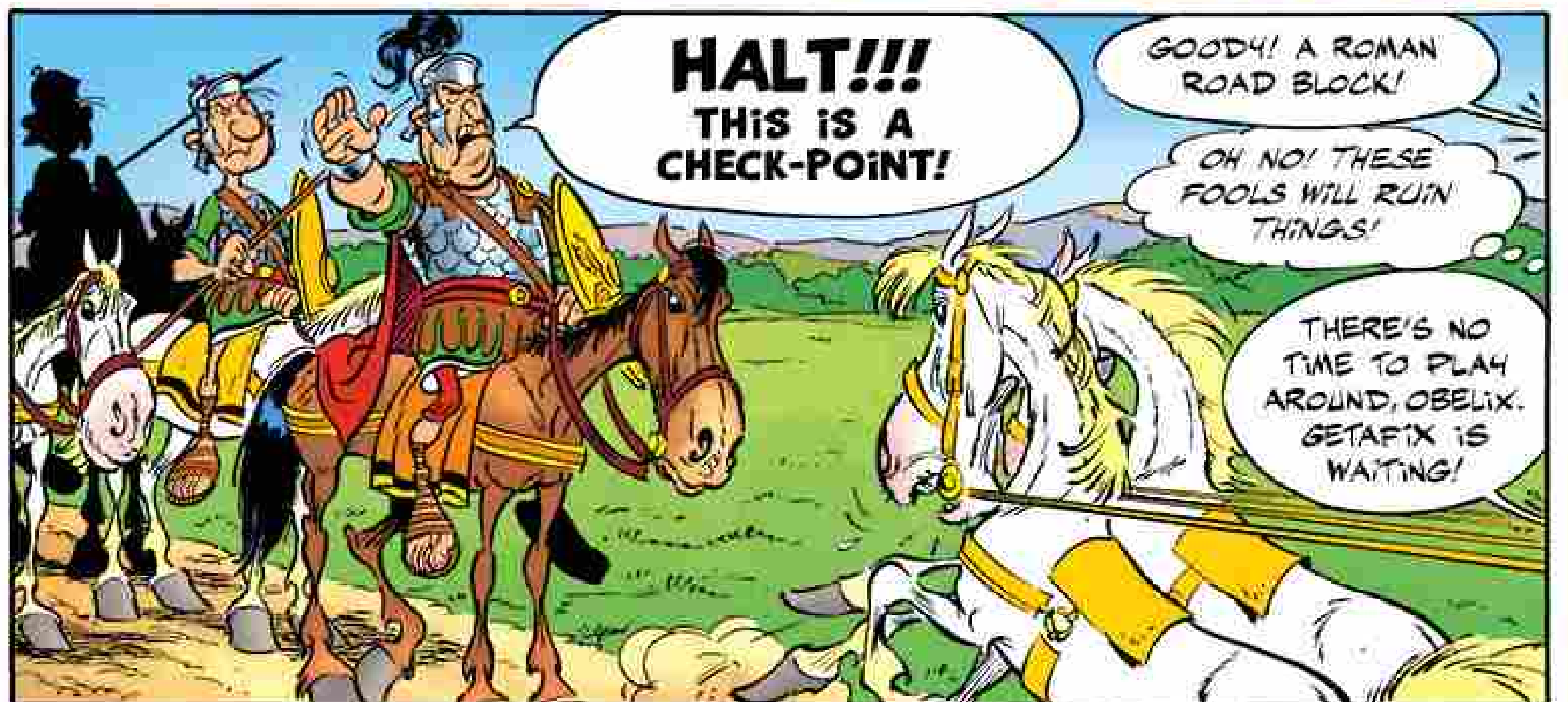
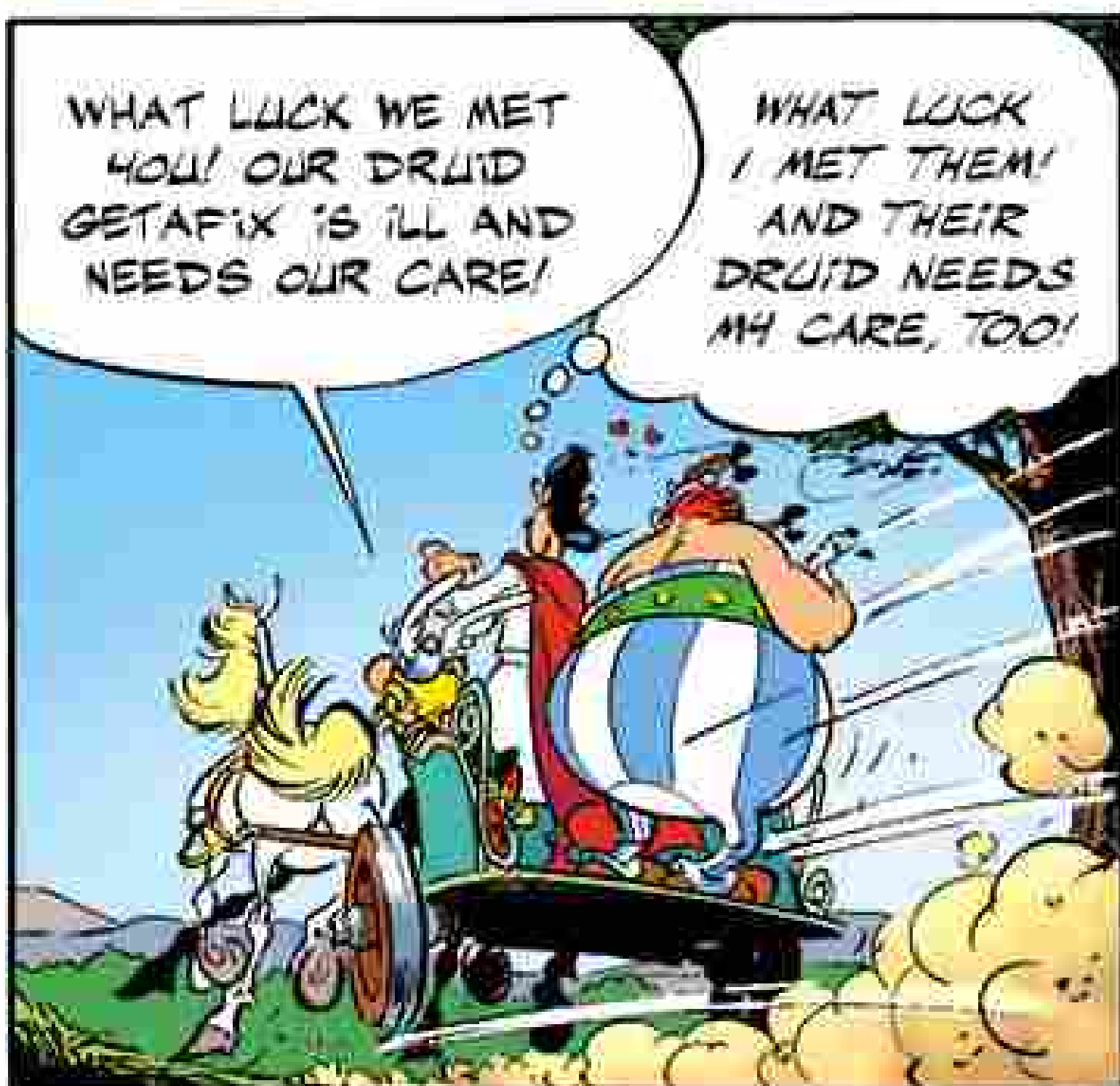
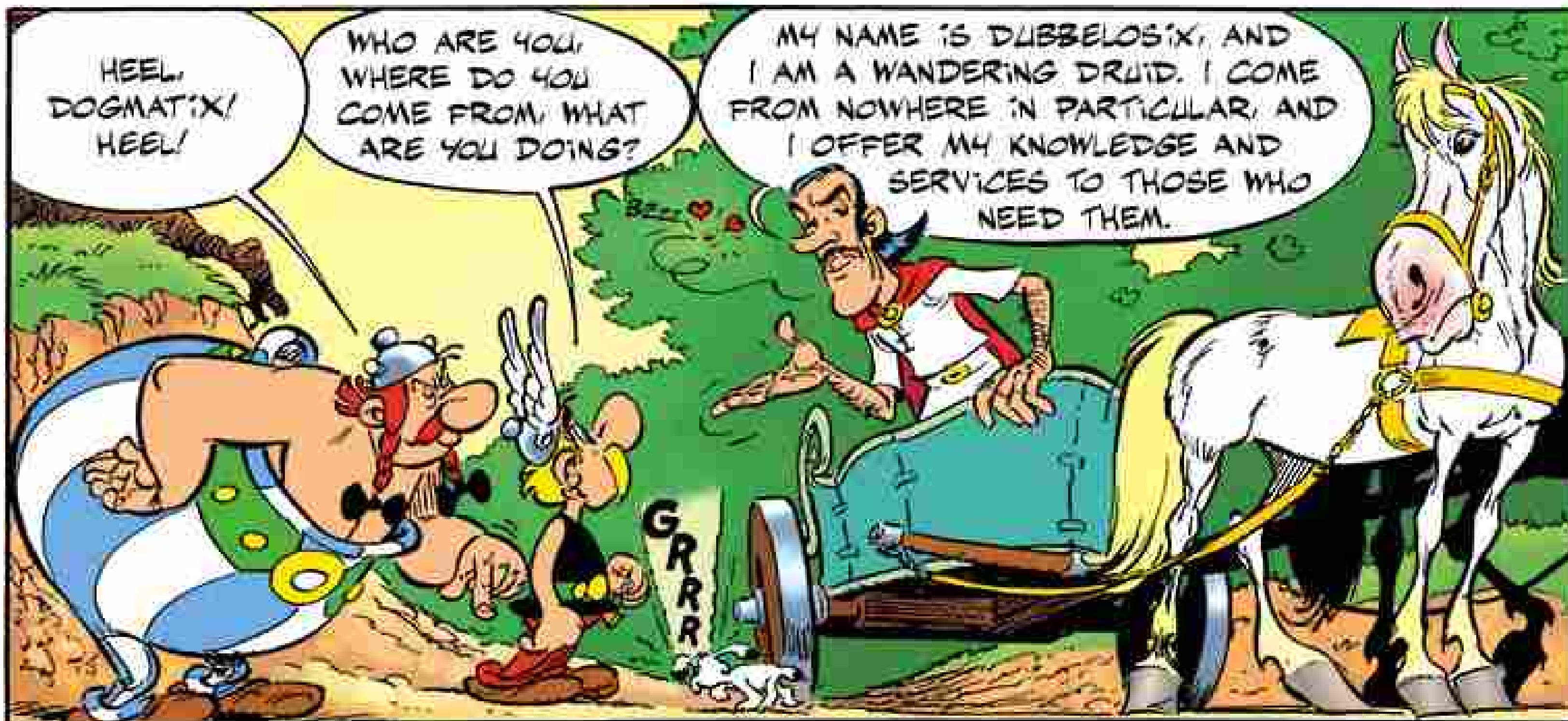
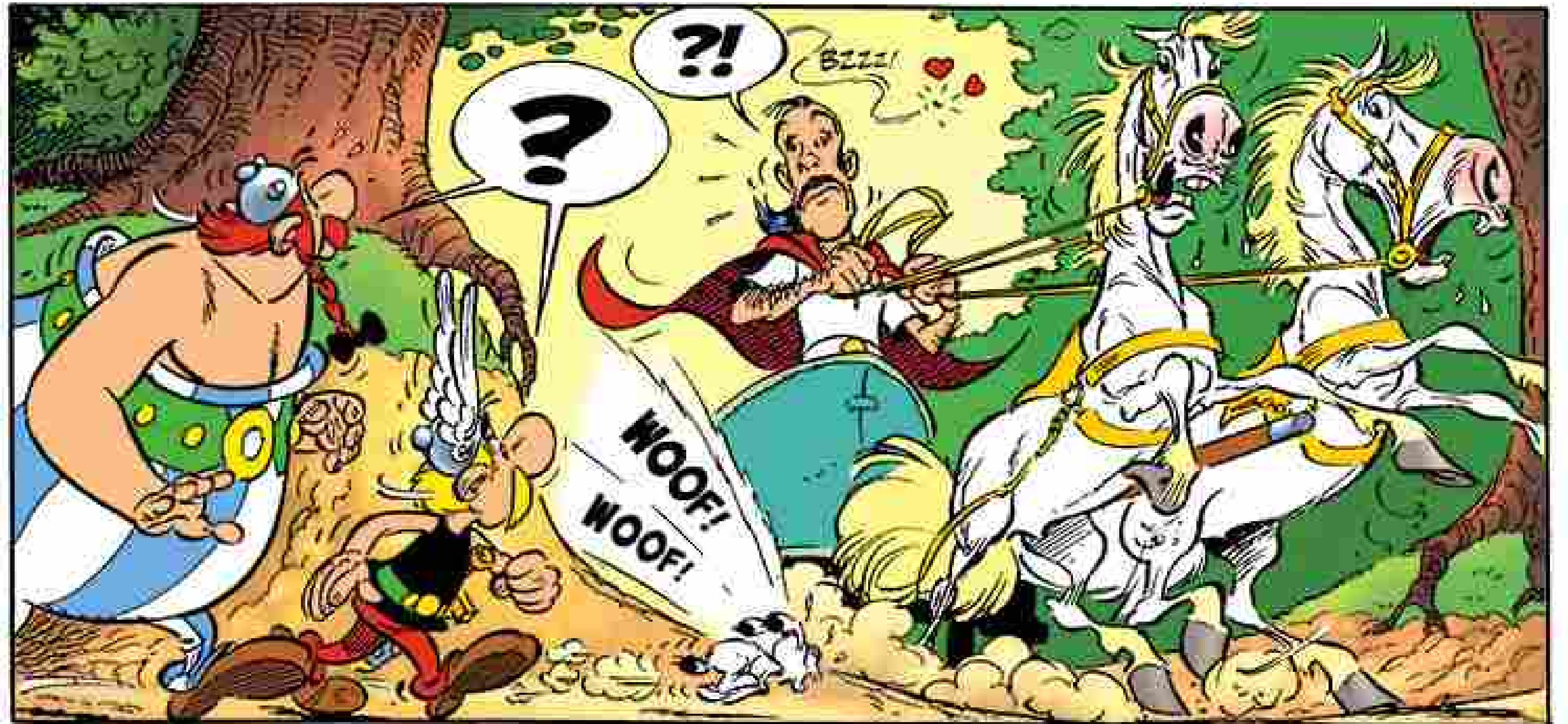




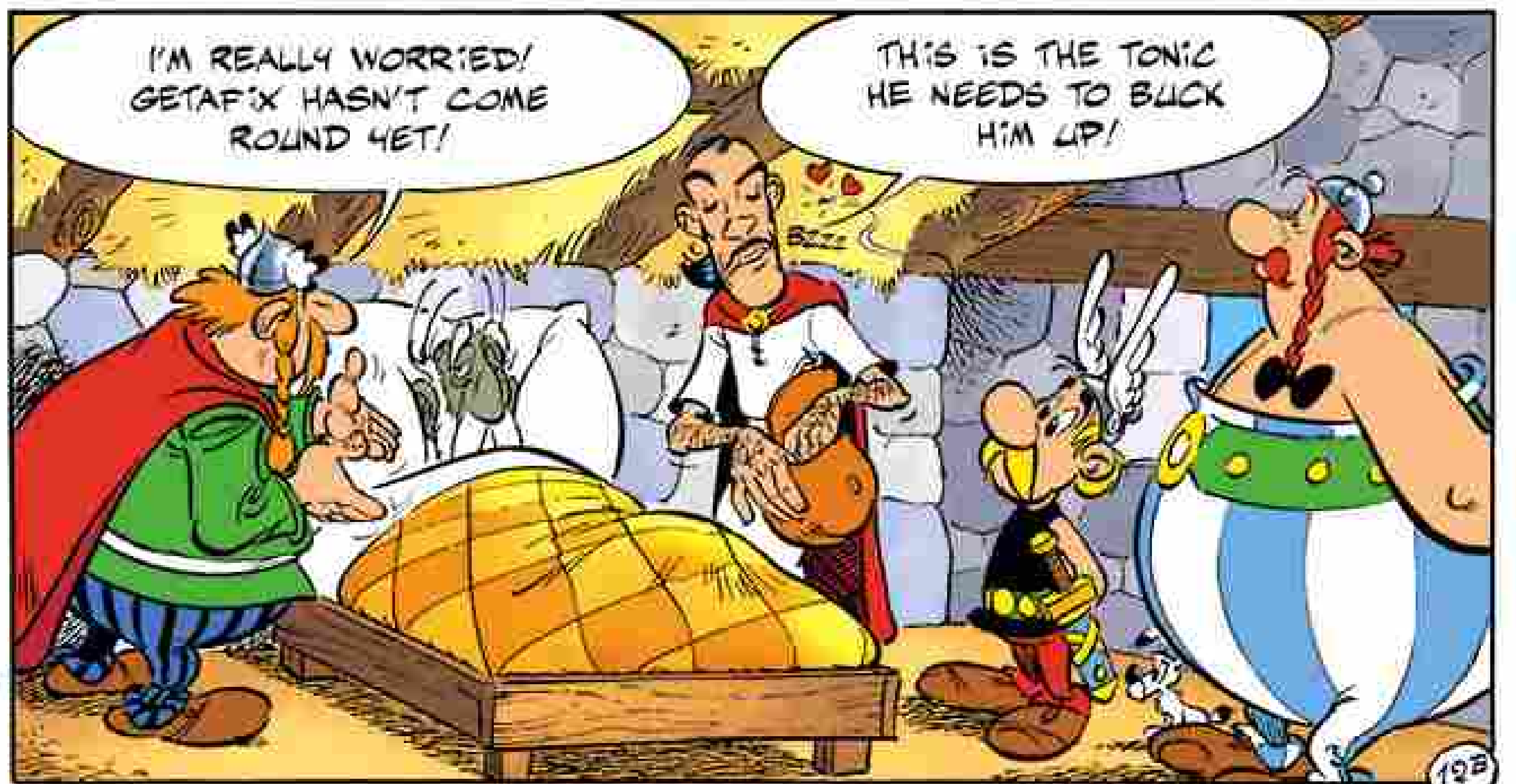
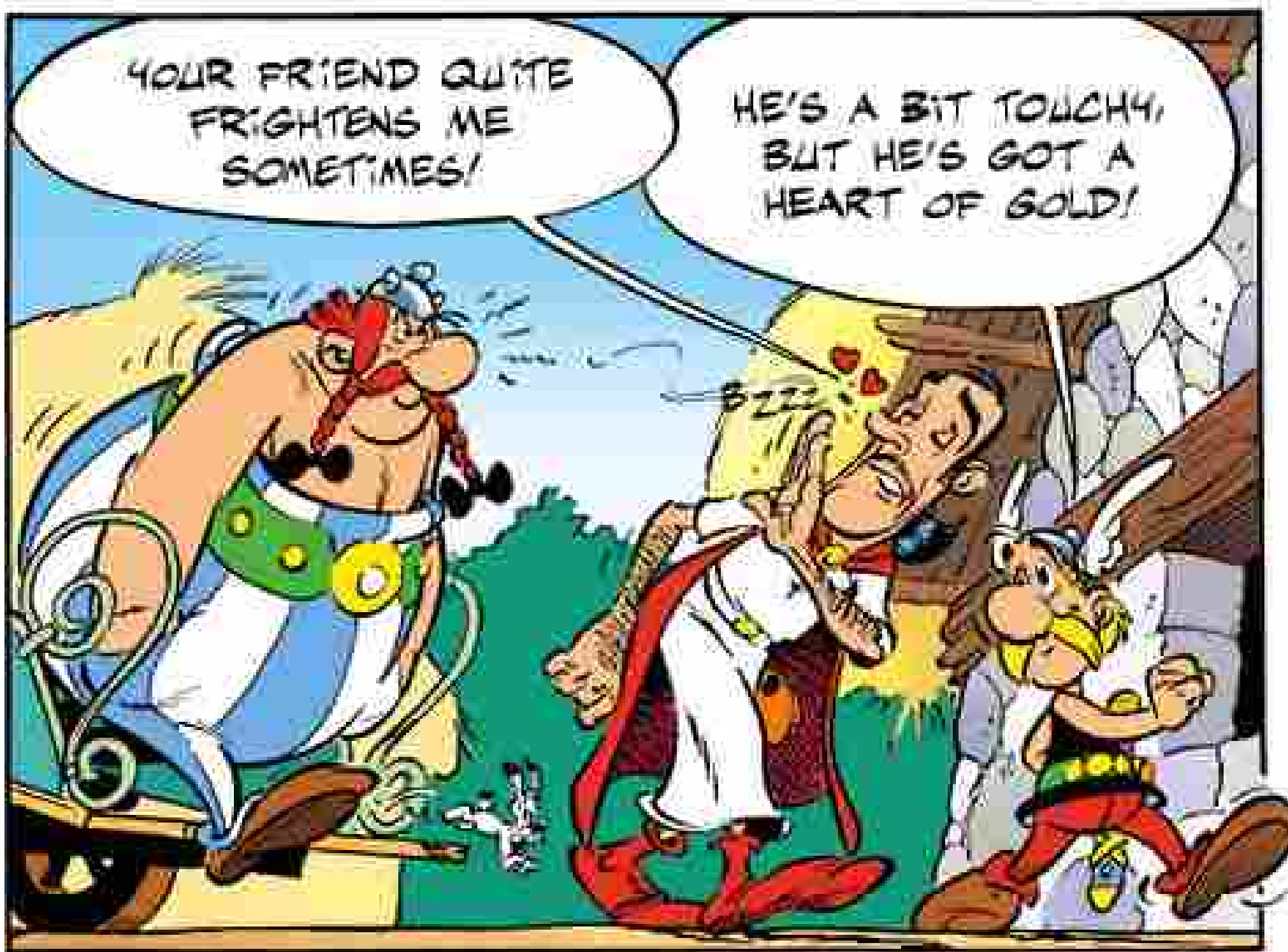
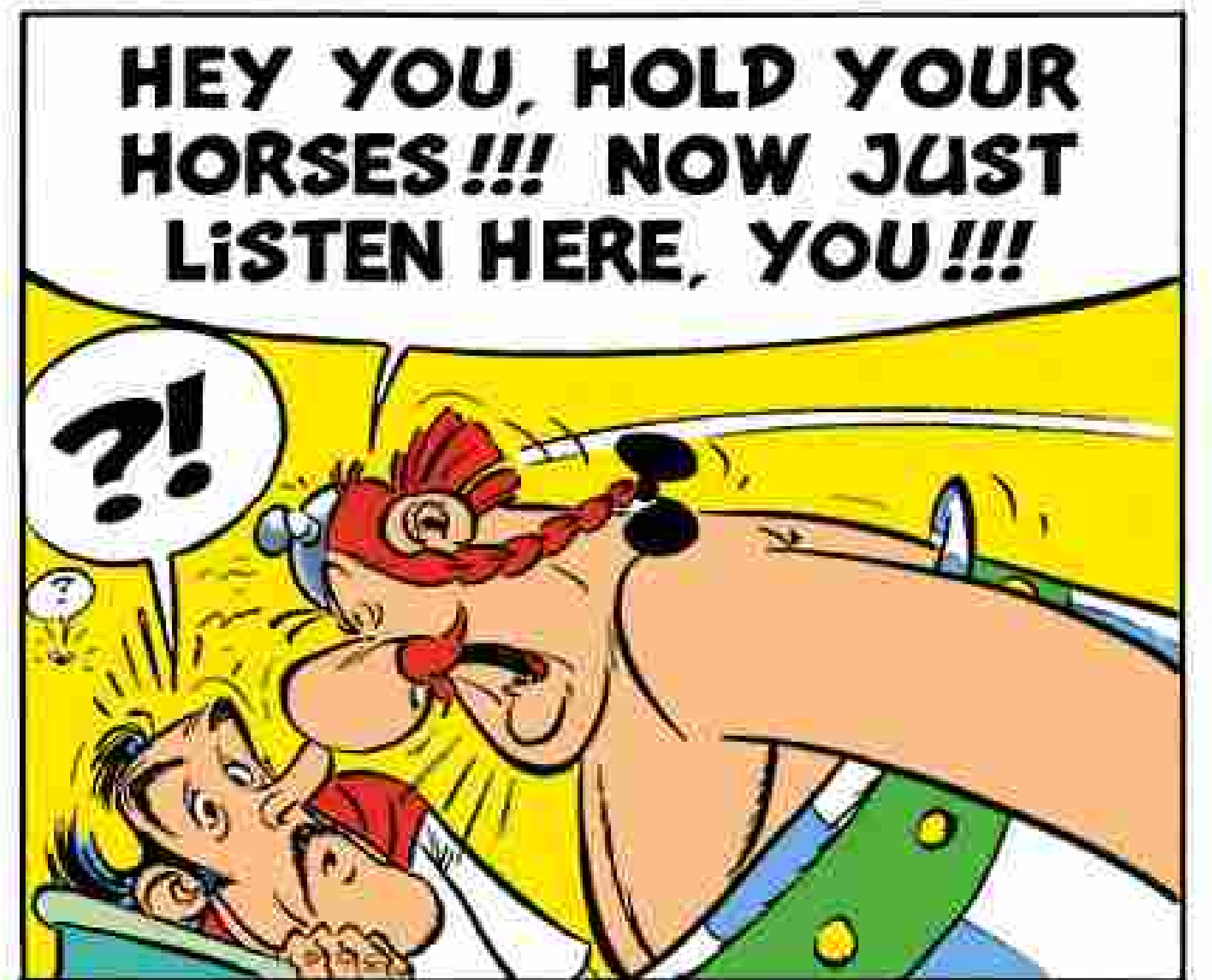
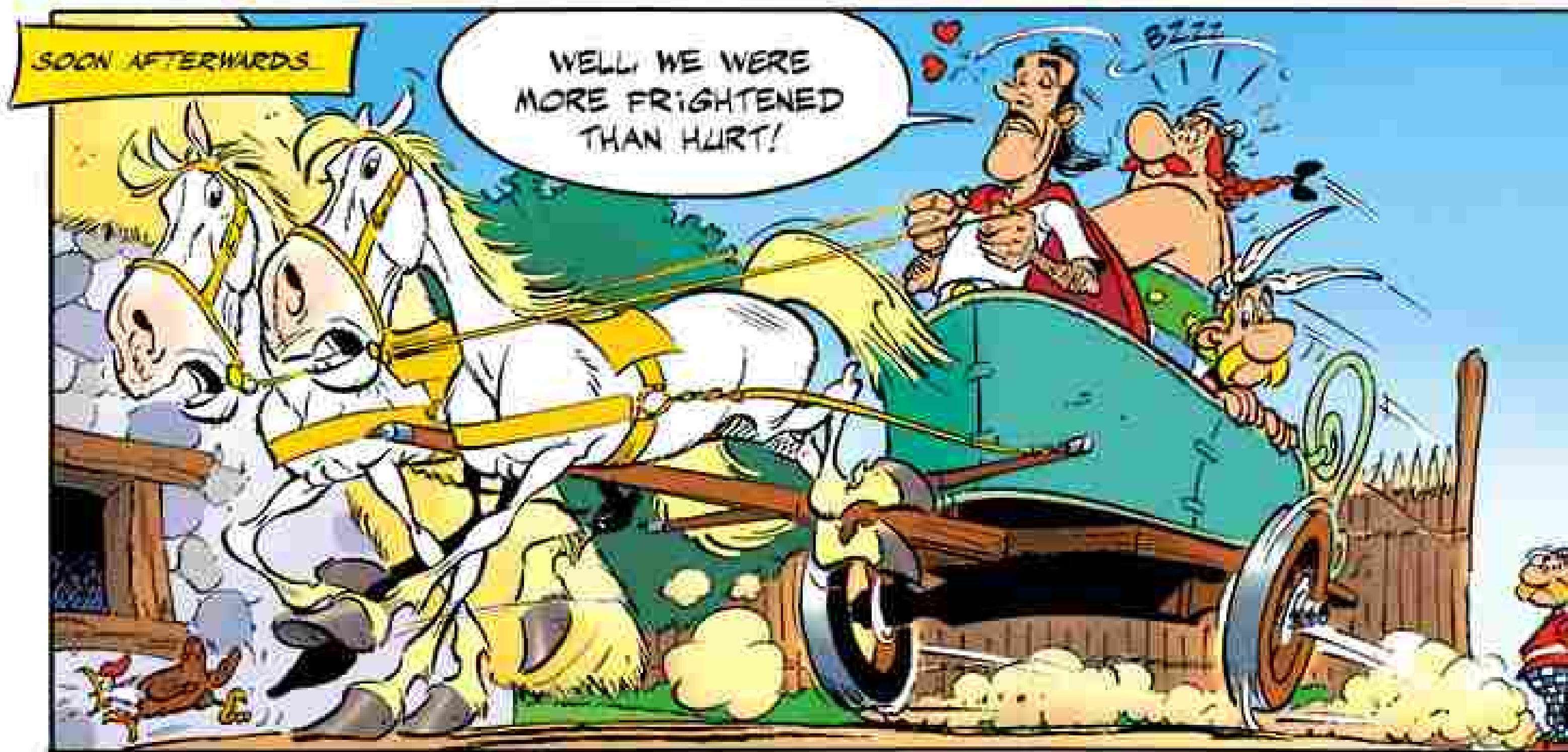
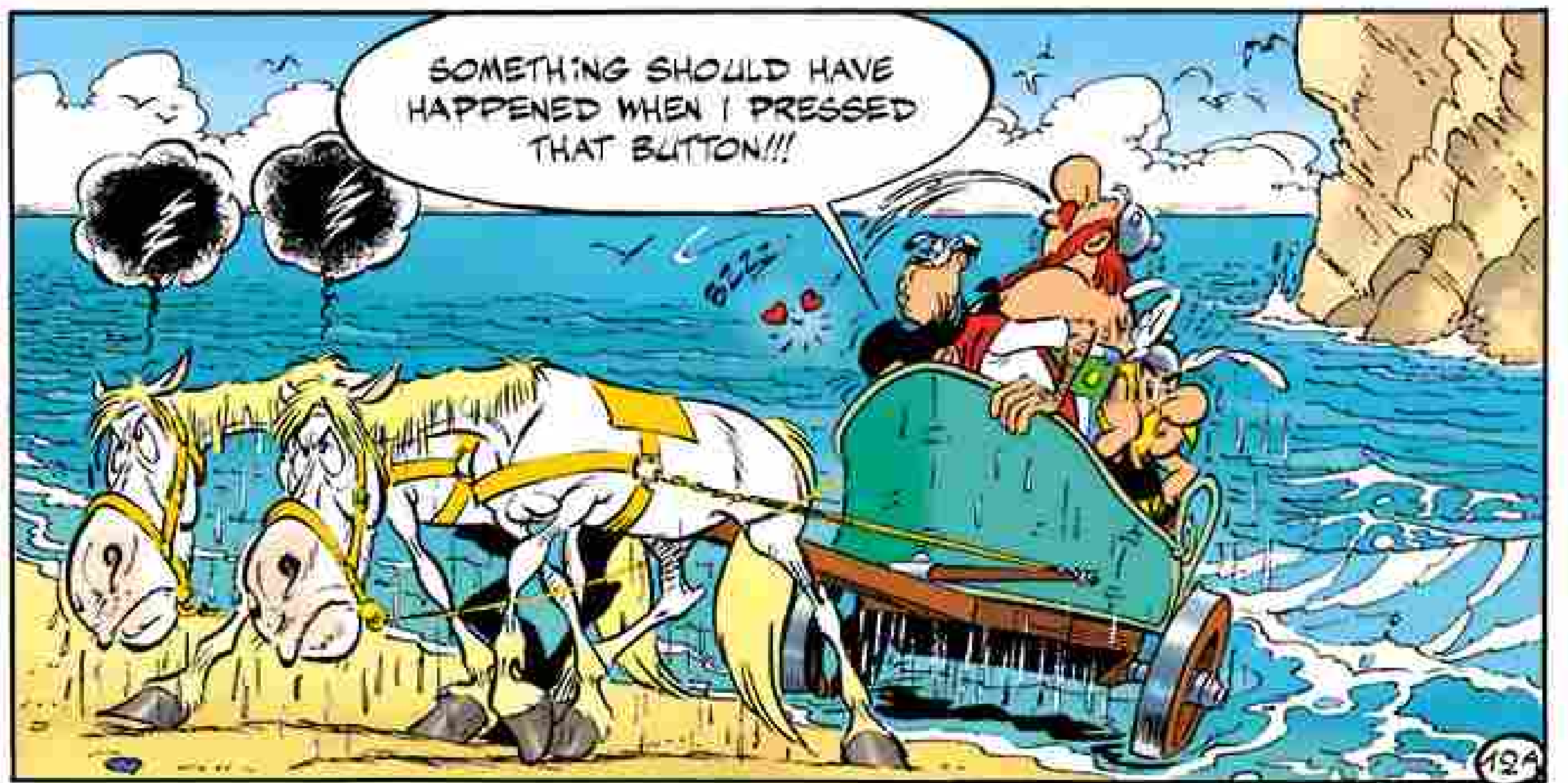
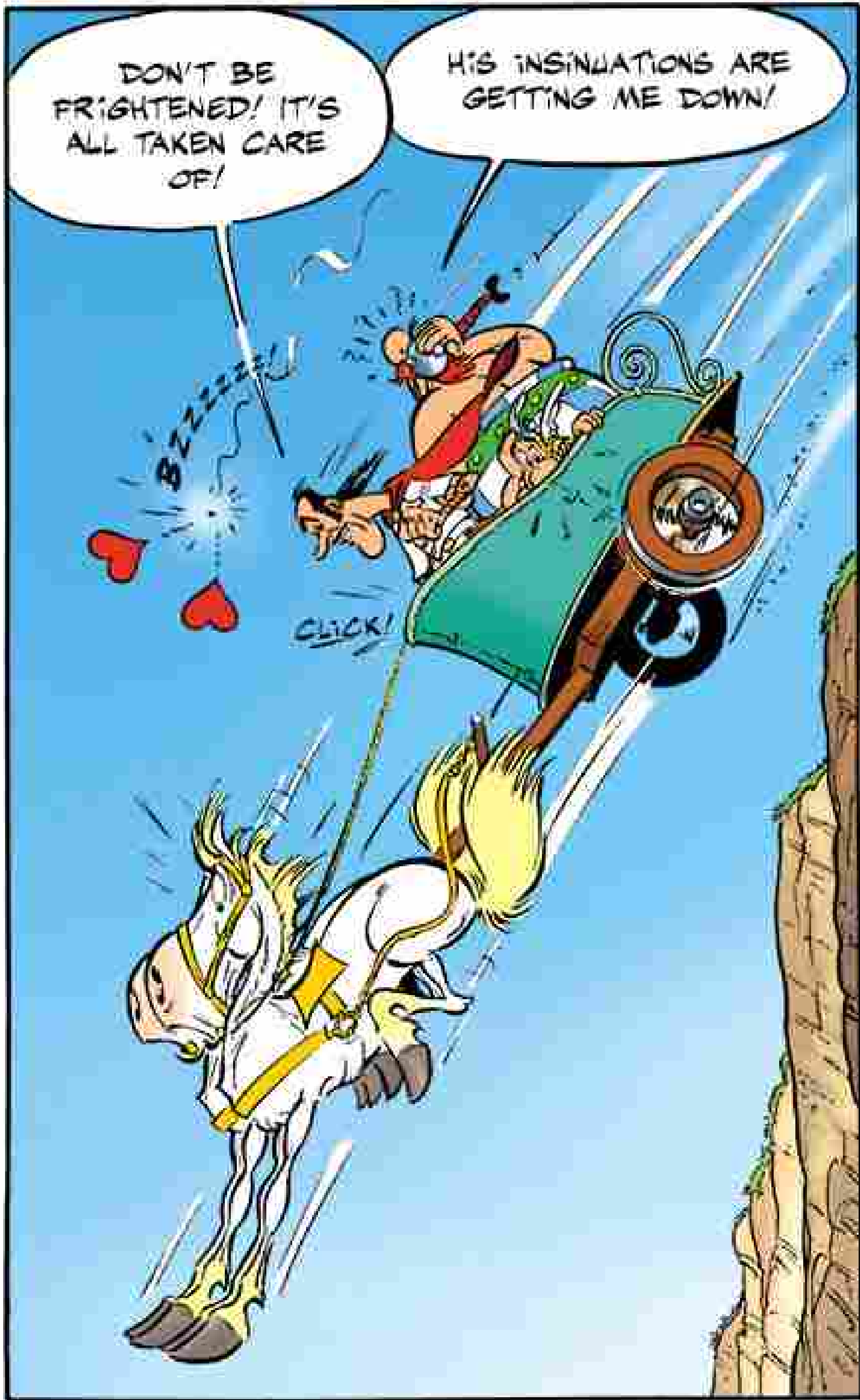


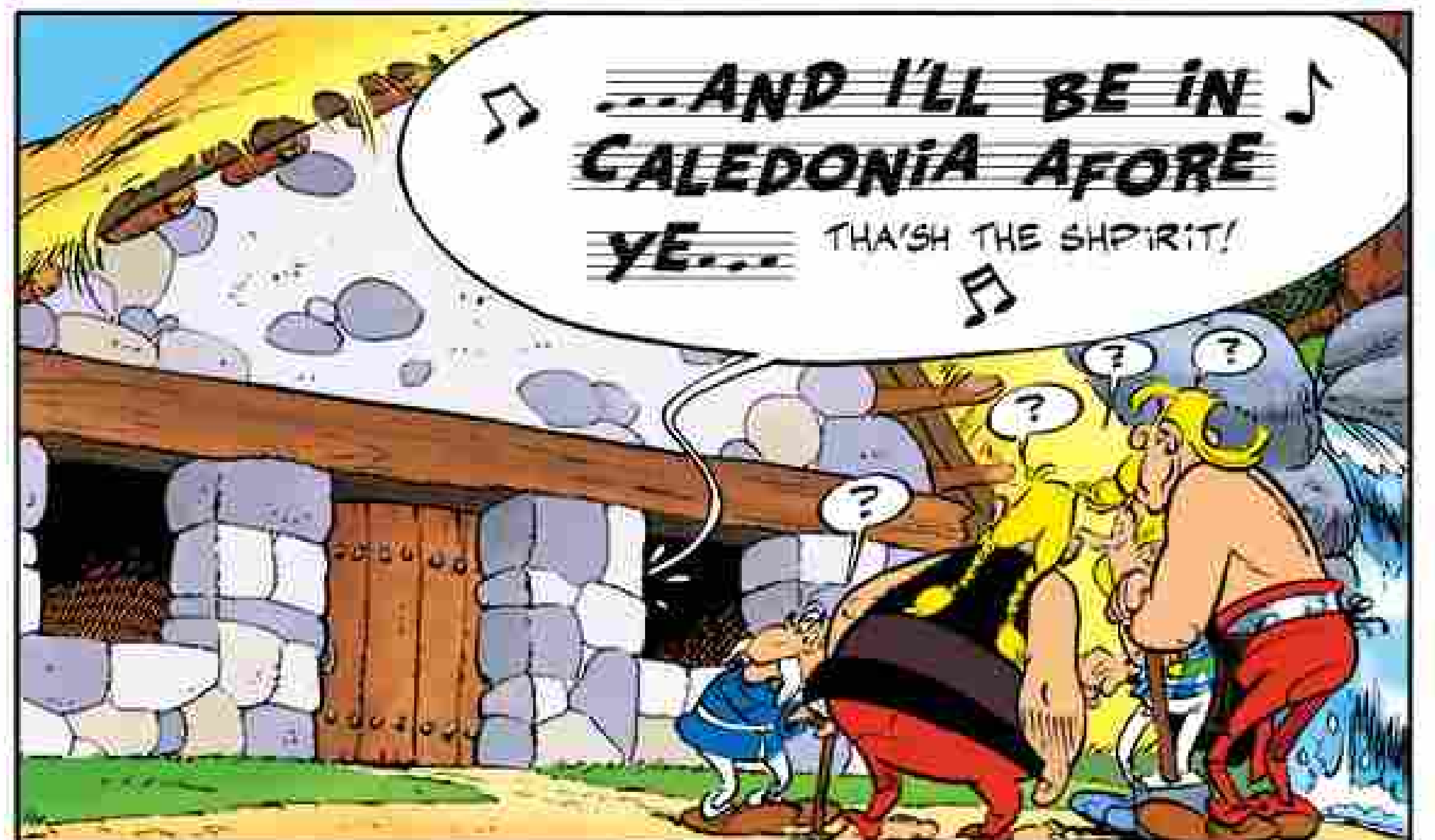
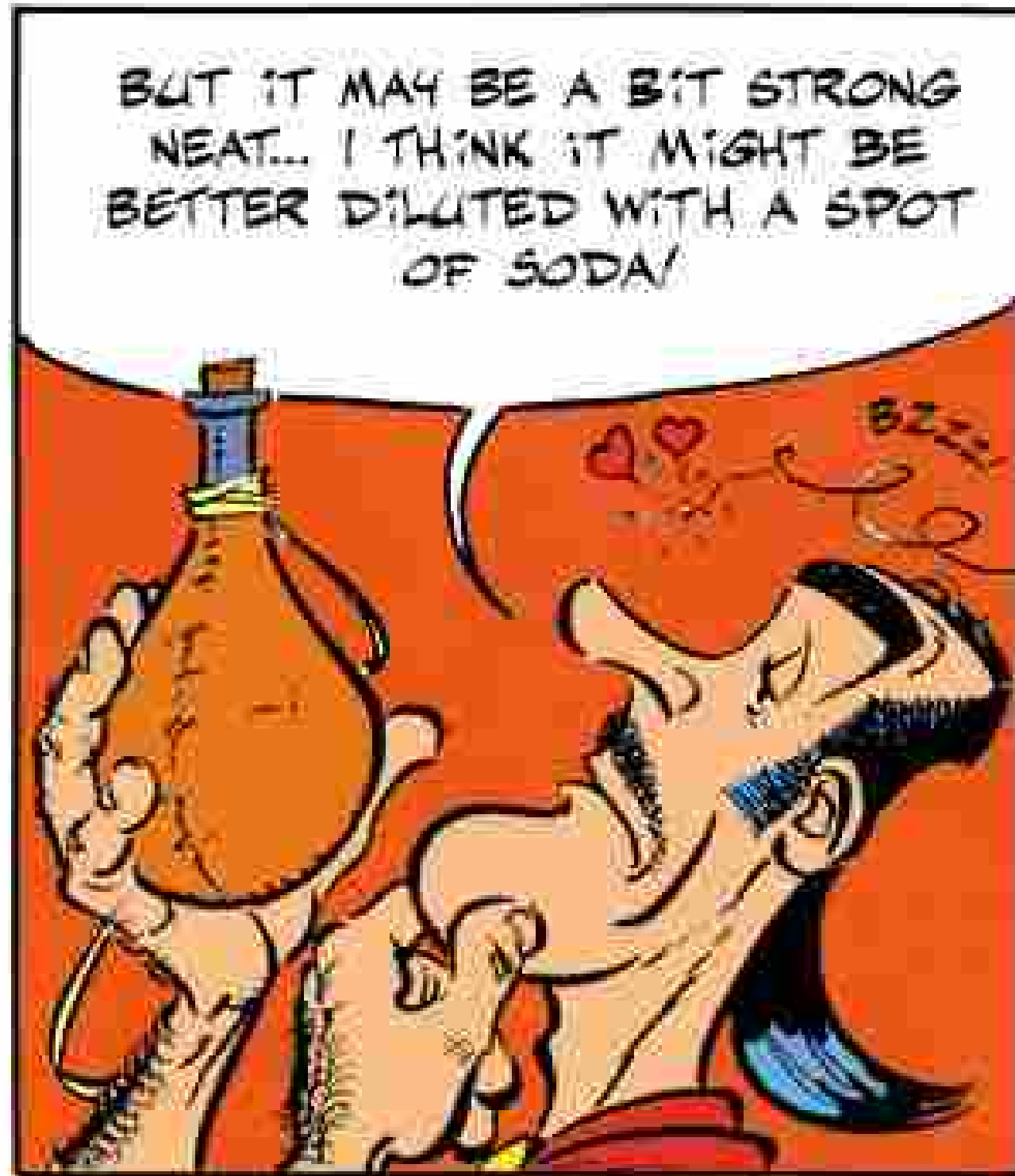


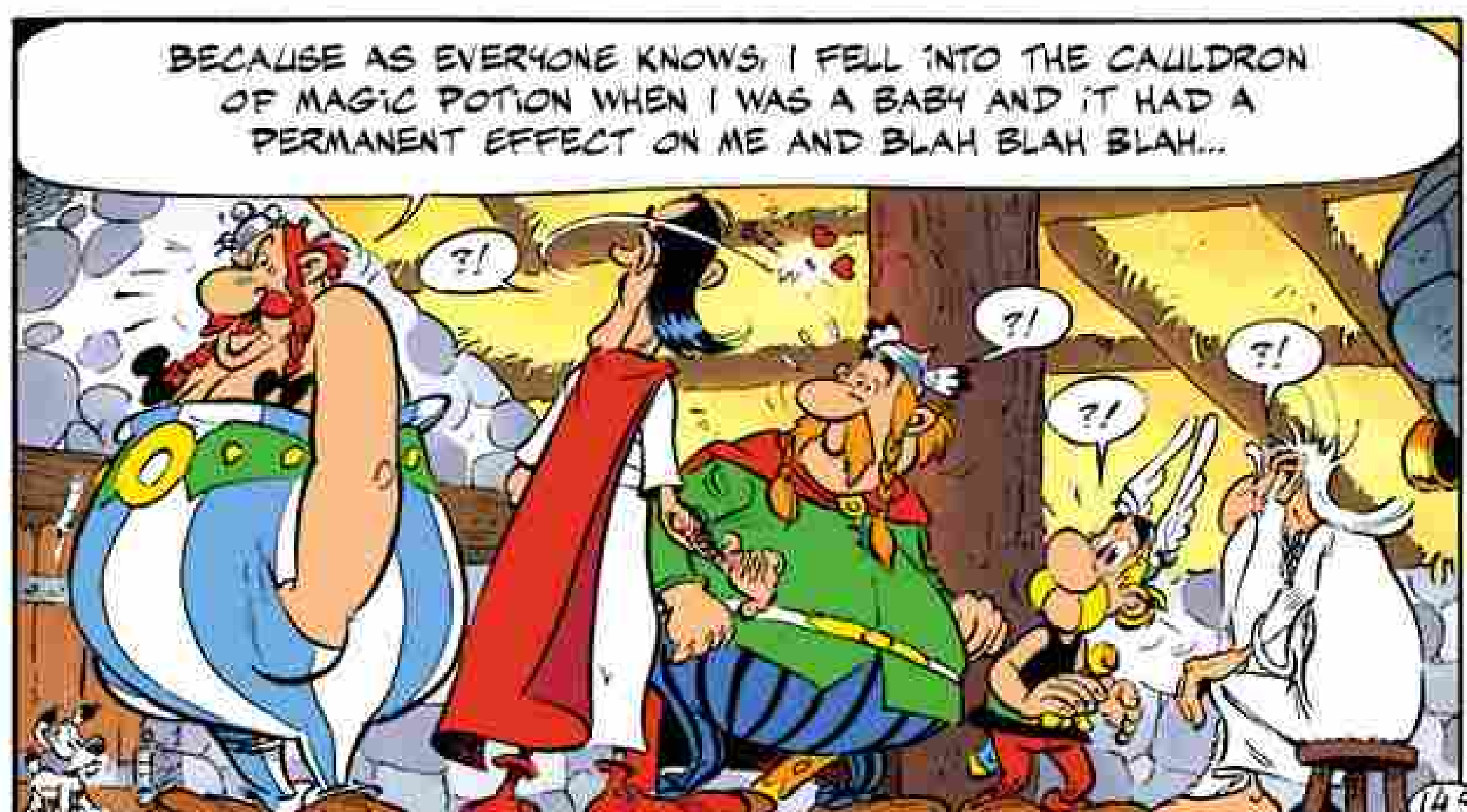


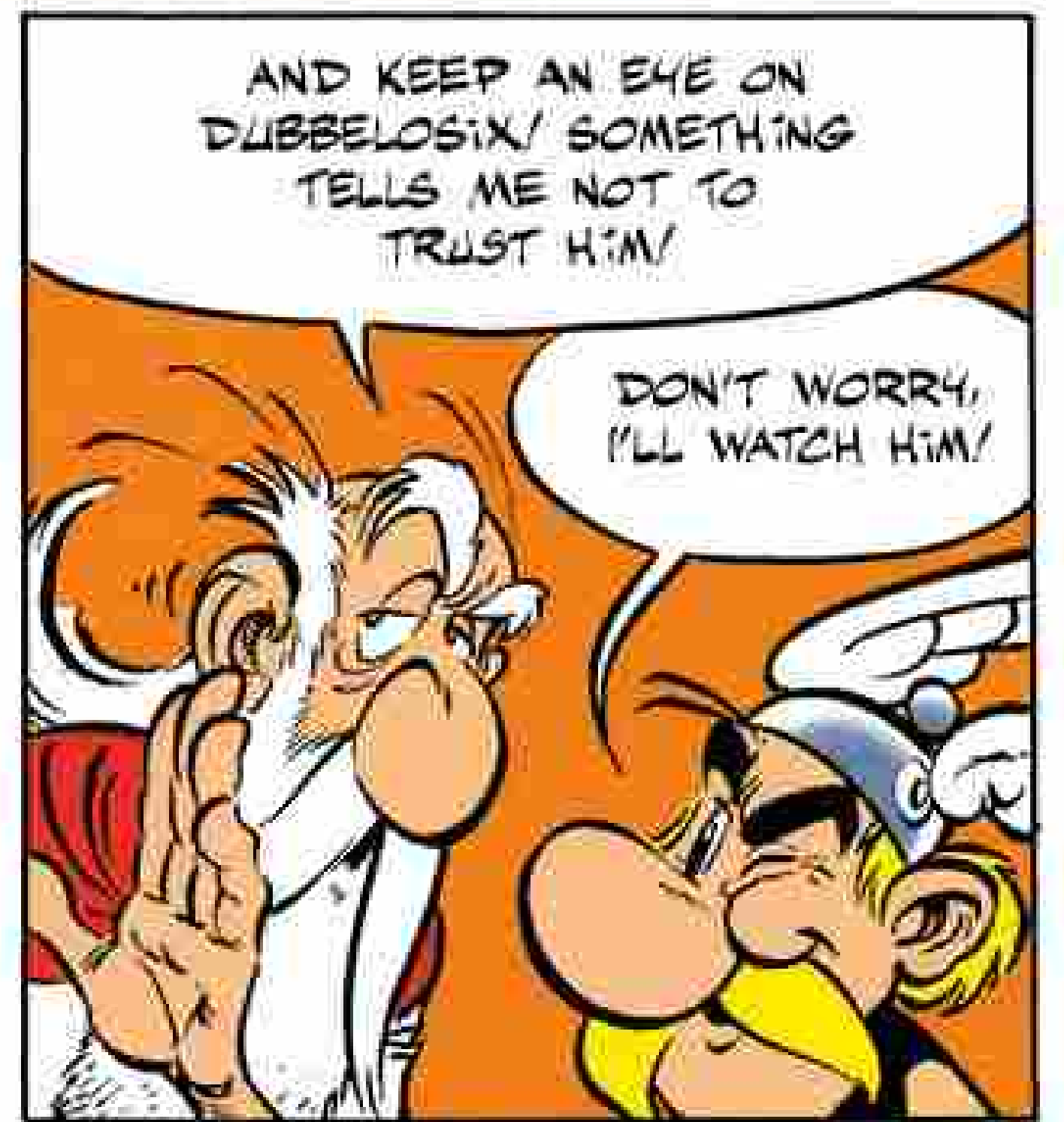
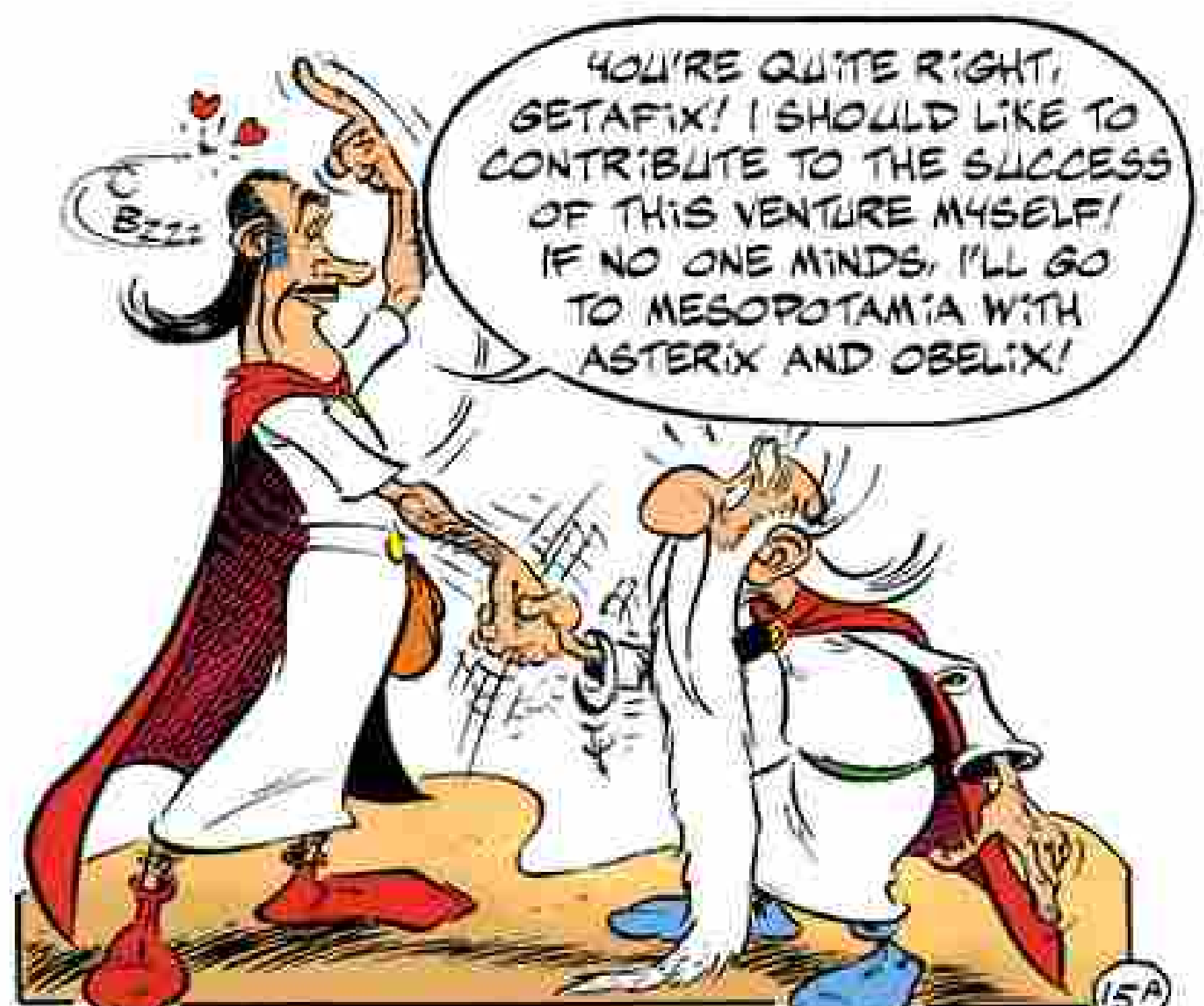
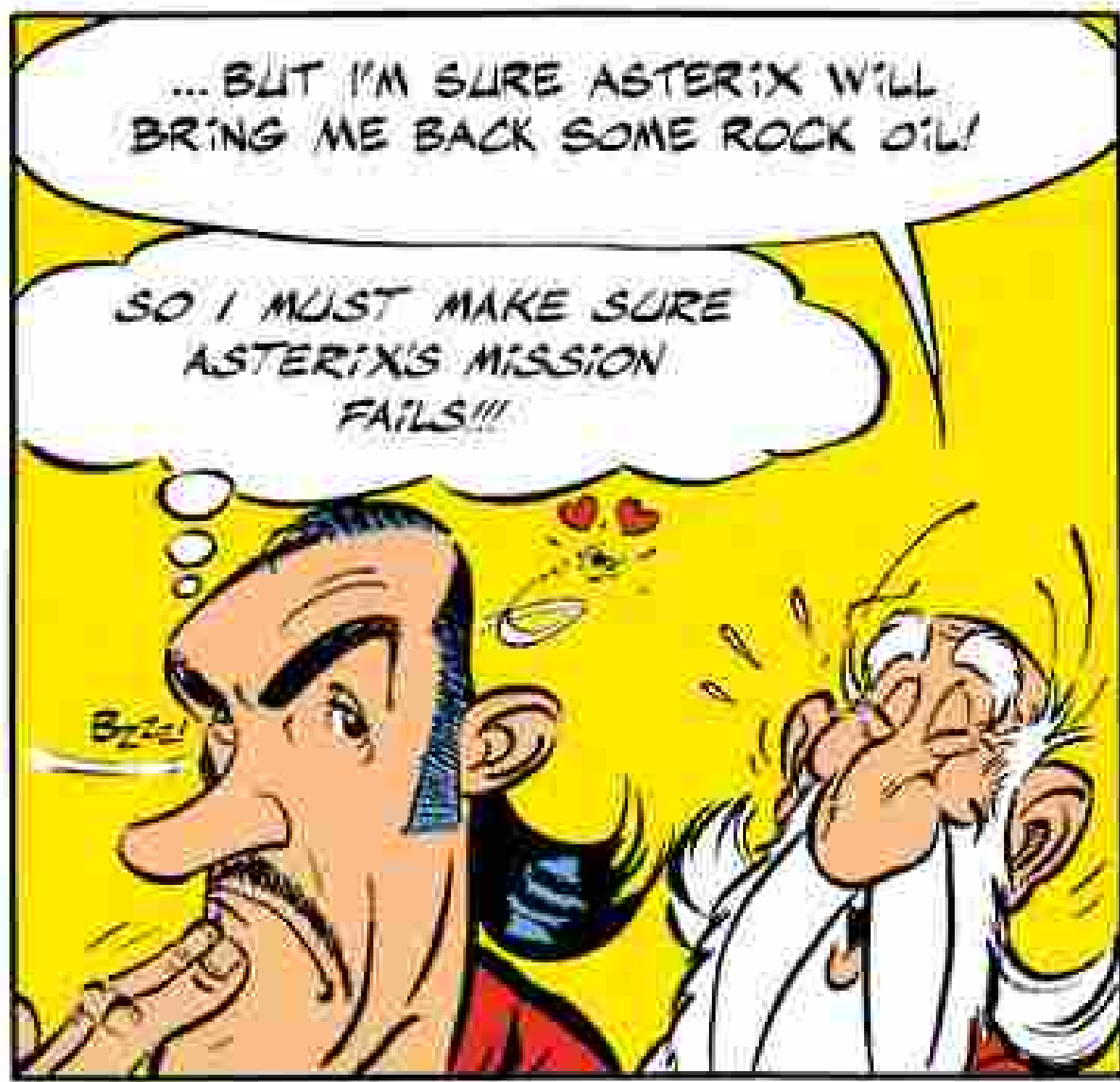
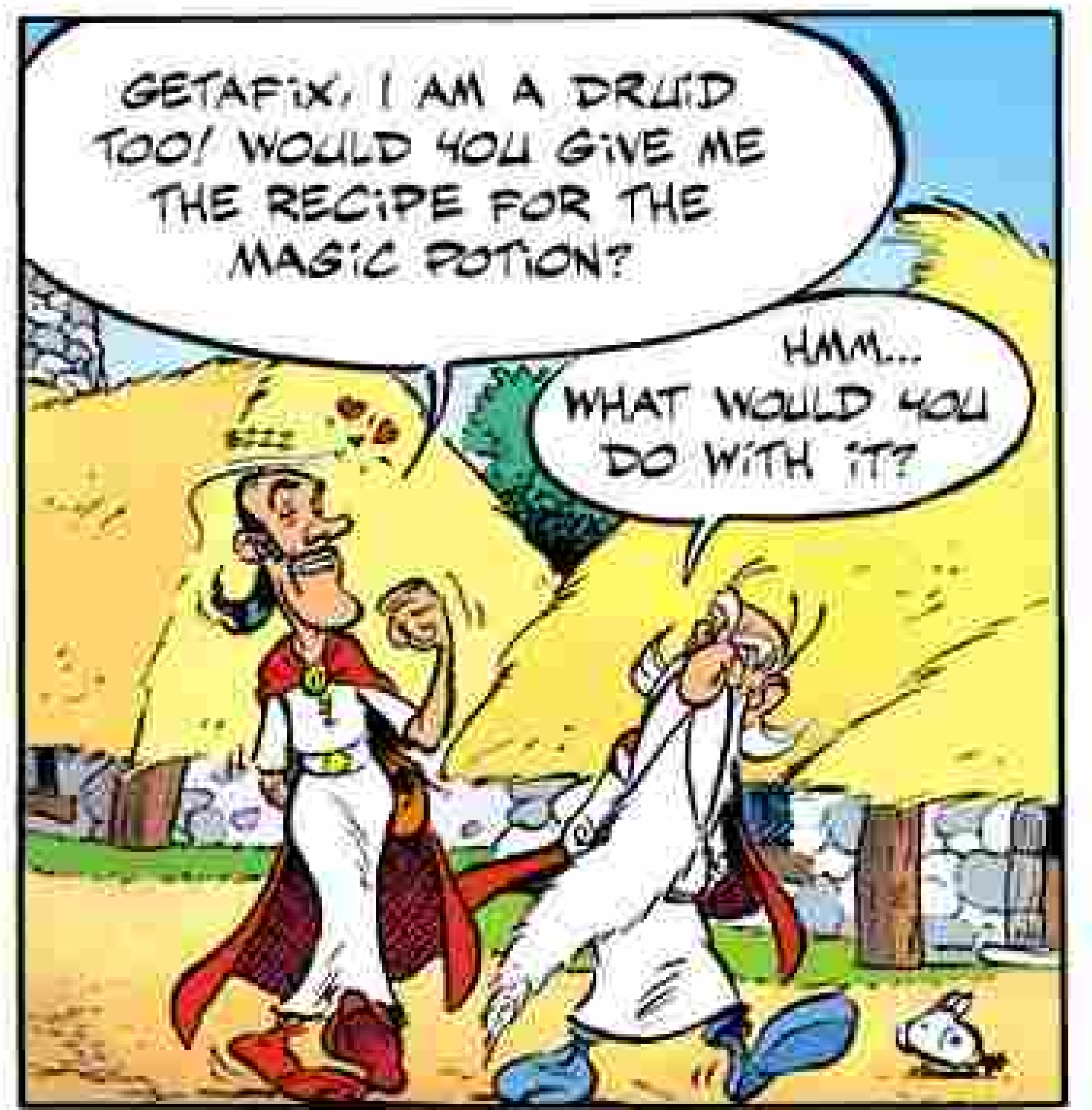










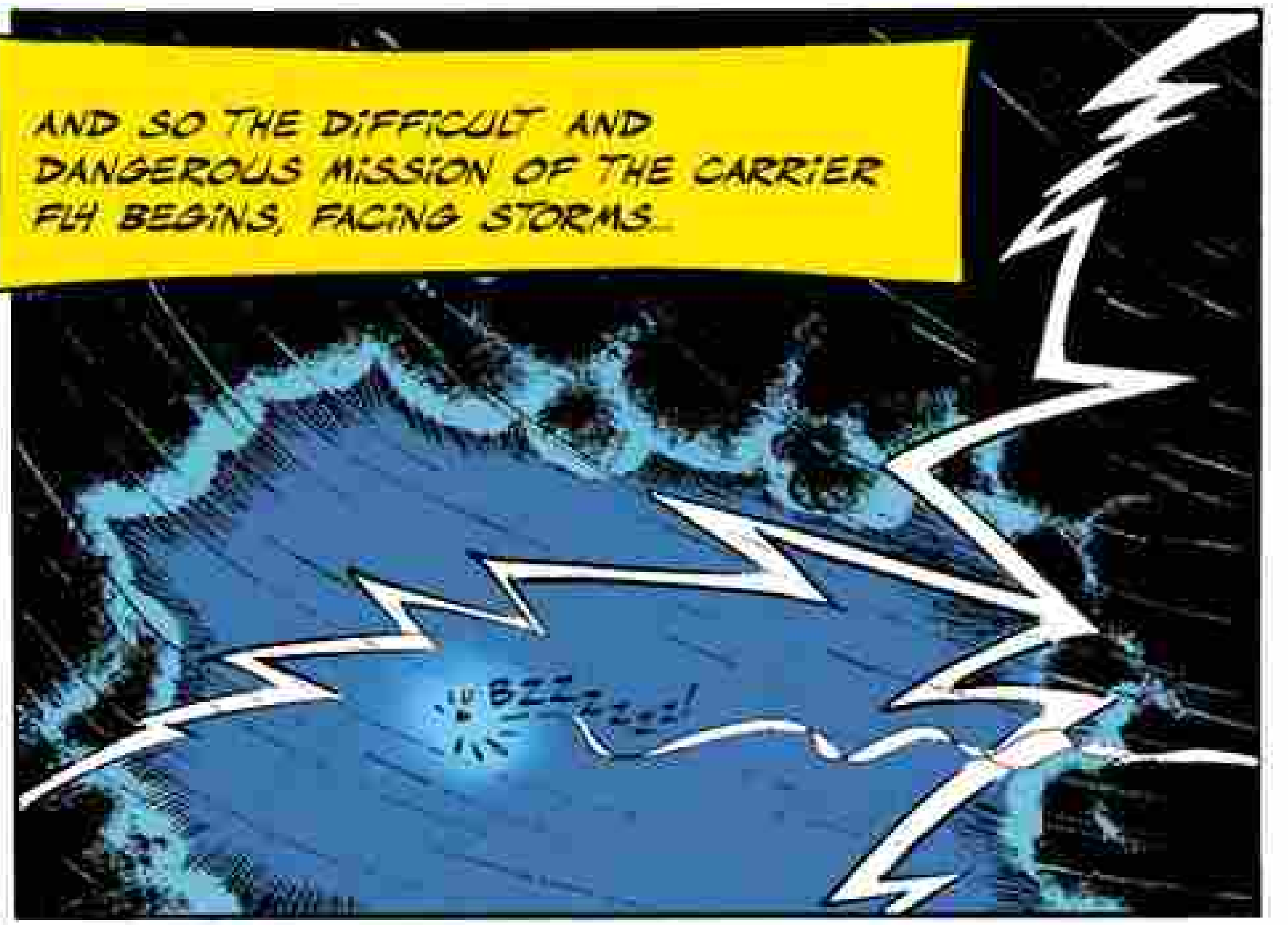




NOW, TAKE MY MESSAGE TO SURREPTITUS!



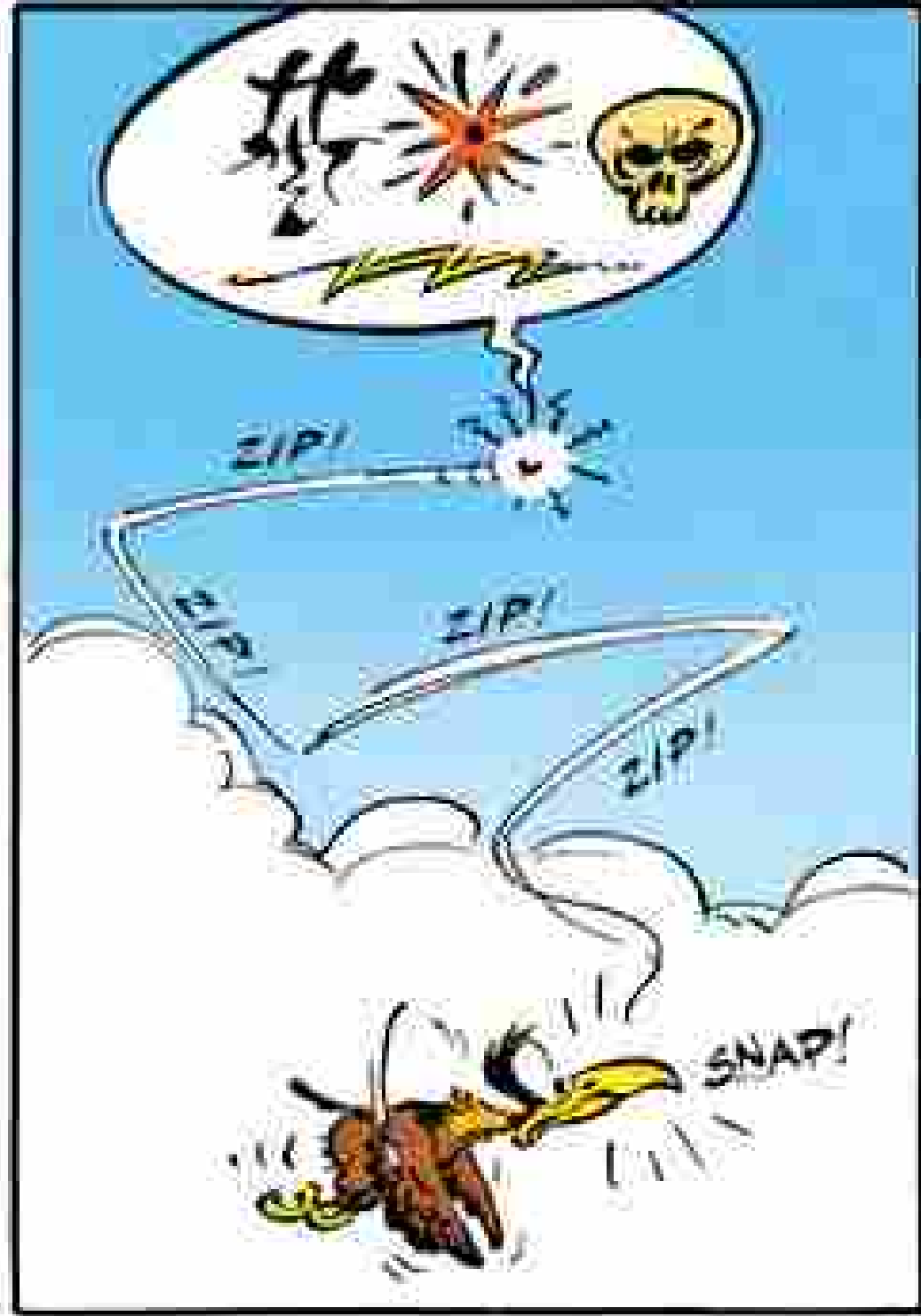
NO DAWDLING ON THE WAY! IT'S URGENT!



AND SO THE DIFFICULT AND DANGEROUS MISSION OF THE CARRIER FLY BEGINS, FACING STORMS...



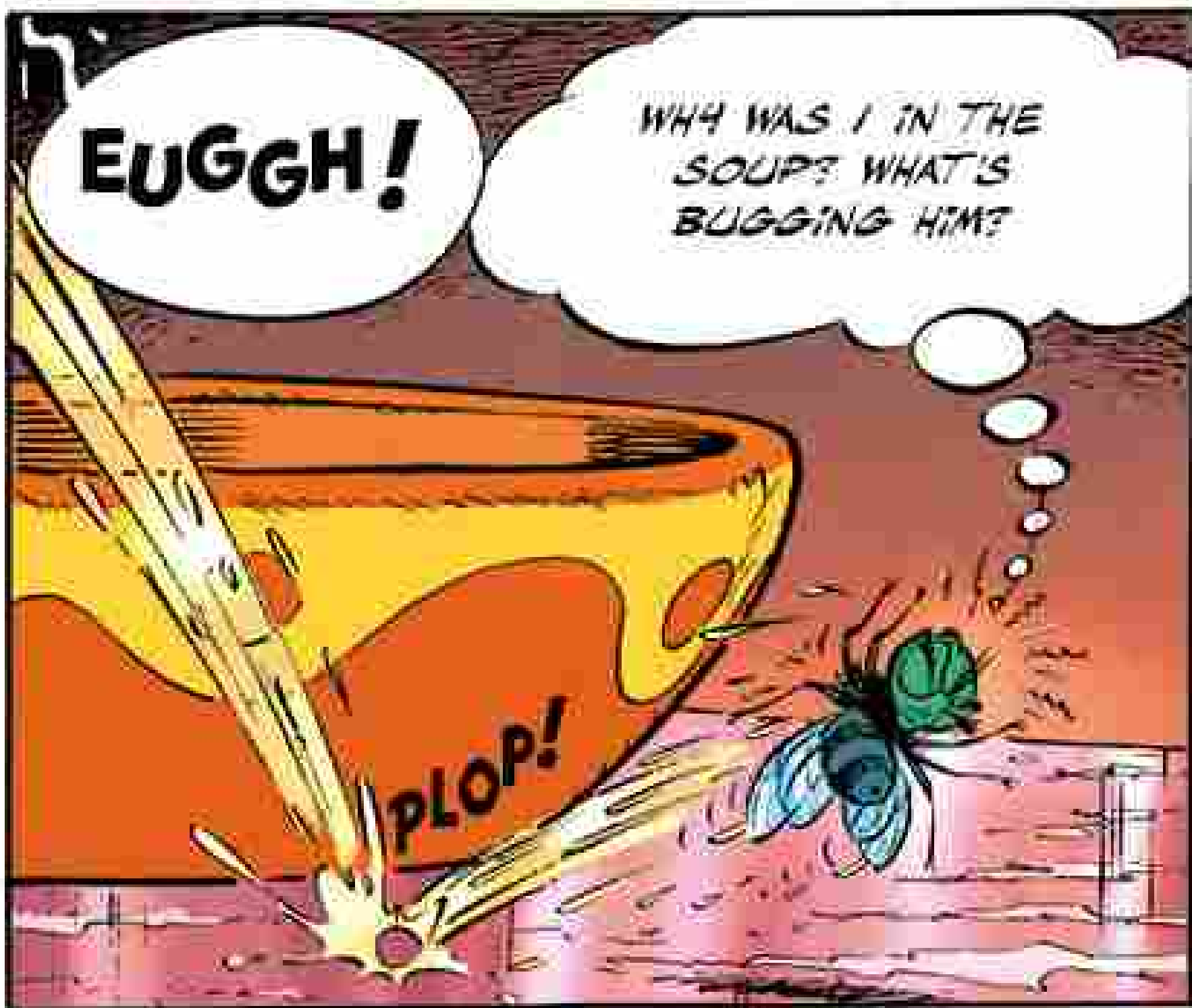
AND MANY OTHER PERILS...



...THE SMALLEST MEMBER OF CAESAR'S SECRET SERVICE FINALLY REACHES HER JOURNEY'S END, WORN OUT.

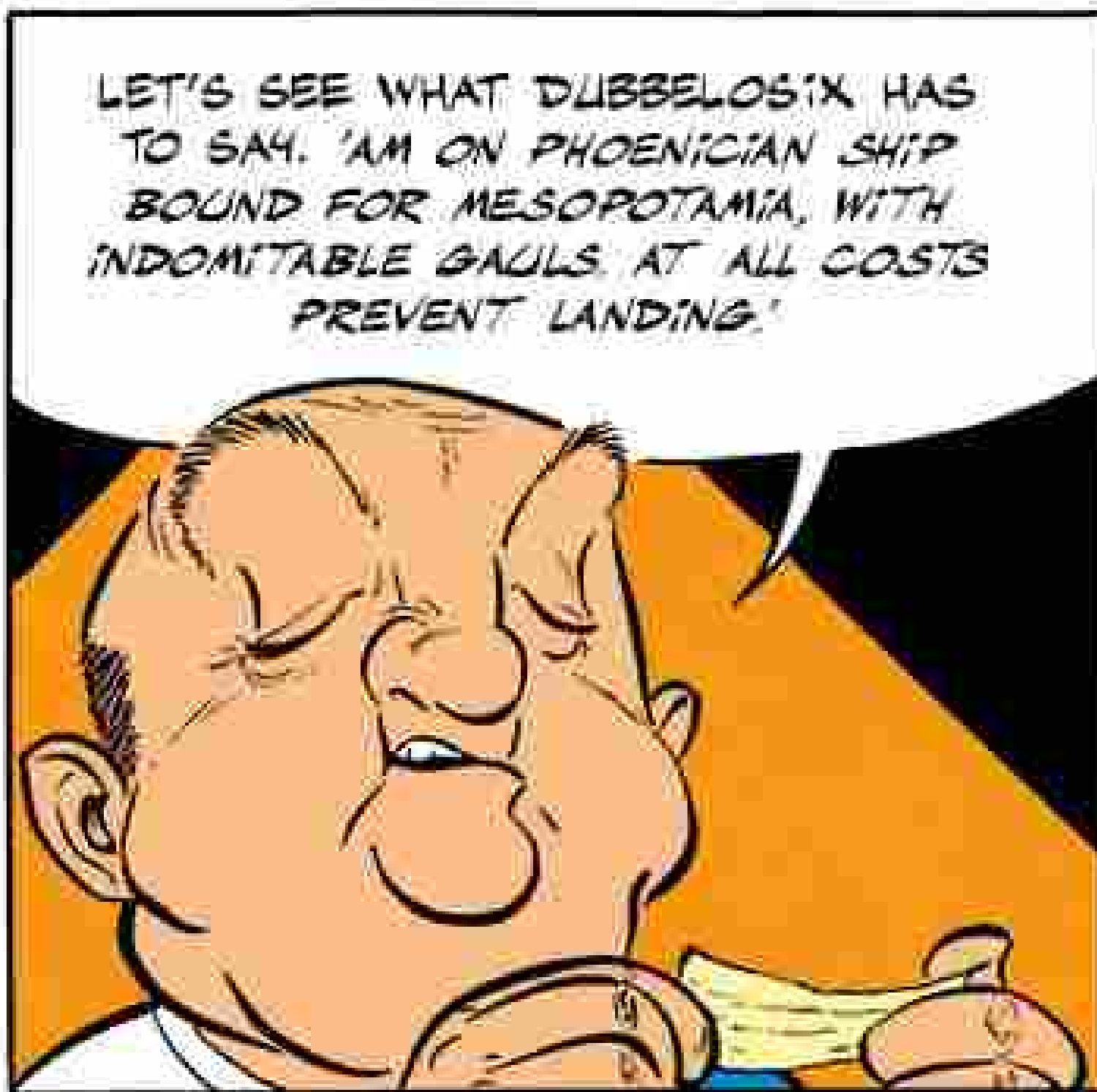


YUK! A FLY IN MY SOUP!! HOW REVOLTING!!!



EUGGH!

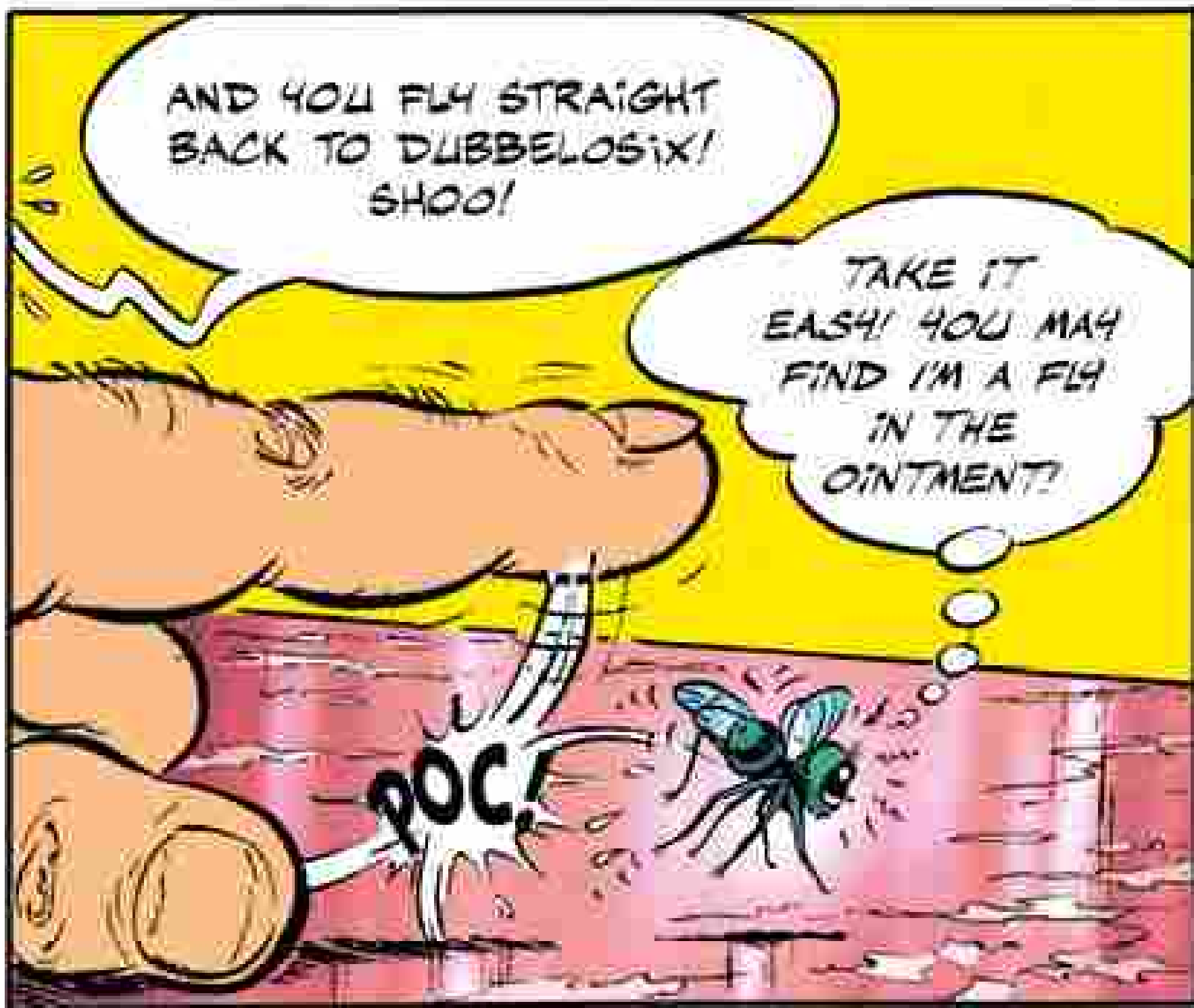
WHY WAS I IN THE SOUP? WHAT'S BUGGING HIM?



LET'S SEE WHAT DUBBELOSIX HAS TO SAY. 'AM ON PHOENICIAN SHIP BOUND FOR MESOPOTAMIA, WITH INDOMITABLE GAULS AT ALL COSTS PREVENT LANDING.'

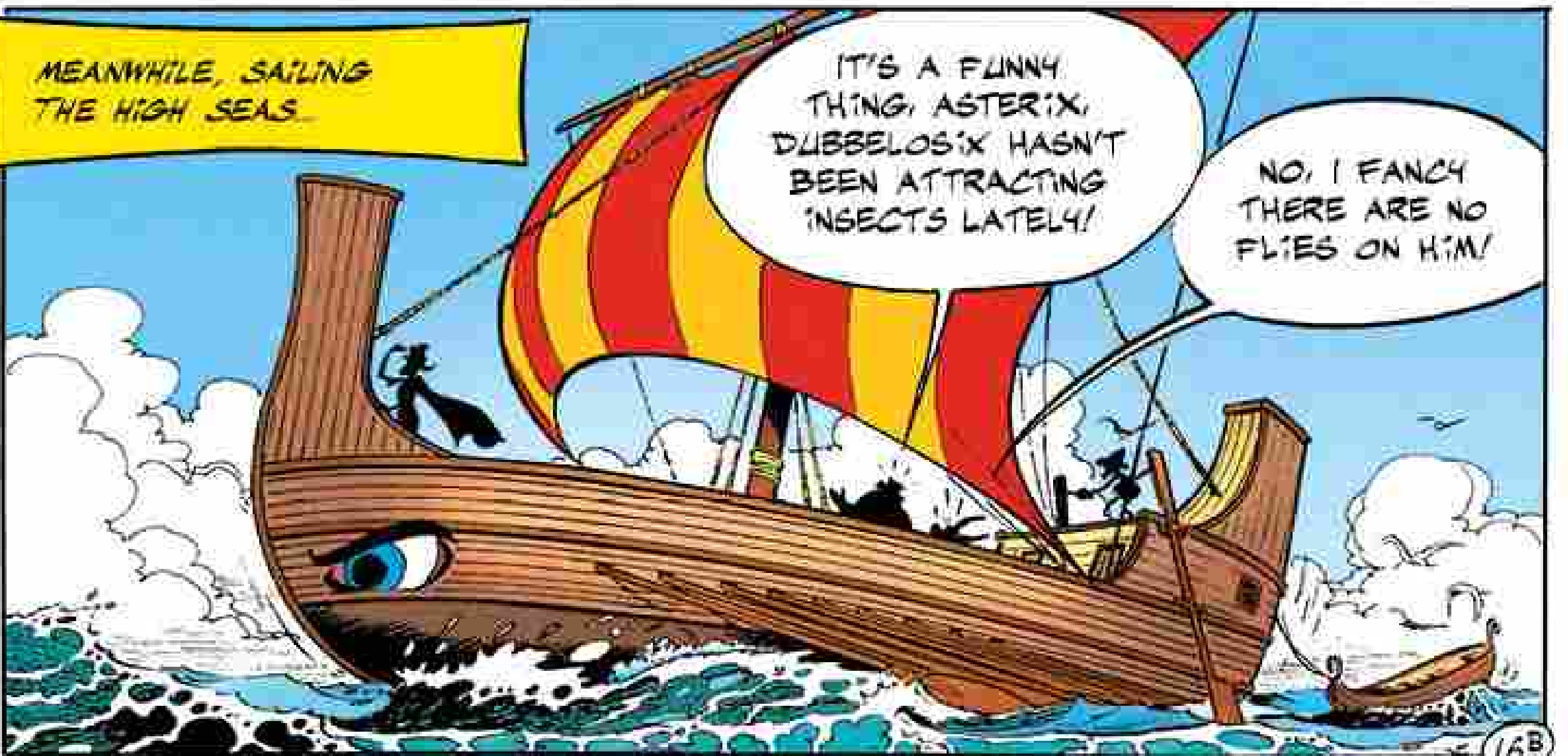


WELL, DUBBELOSIX MUST HAVE HIS REASONS. I'LL GO AND GIVE THE NECESSARY ORDERS!



AND YOU FLY STRAIGHT BACK TO DUBBELOSIX! SHOO!

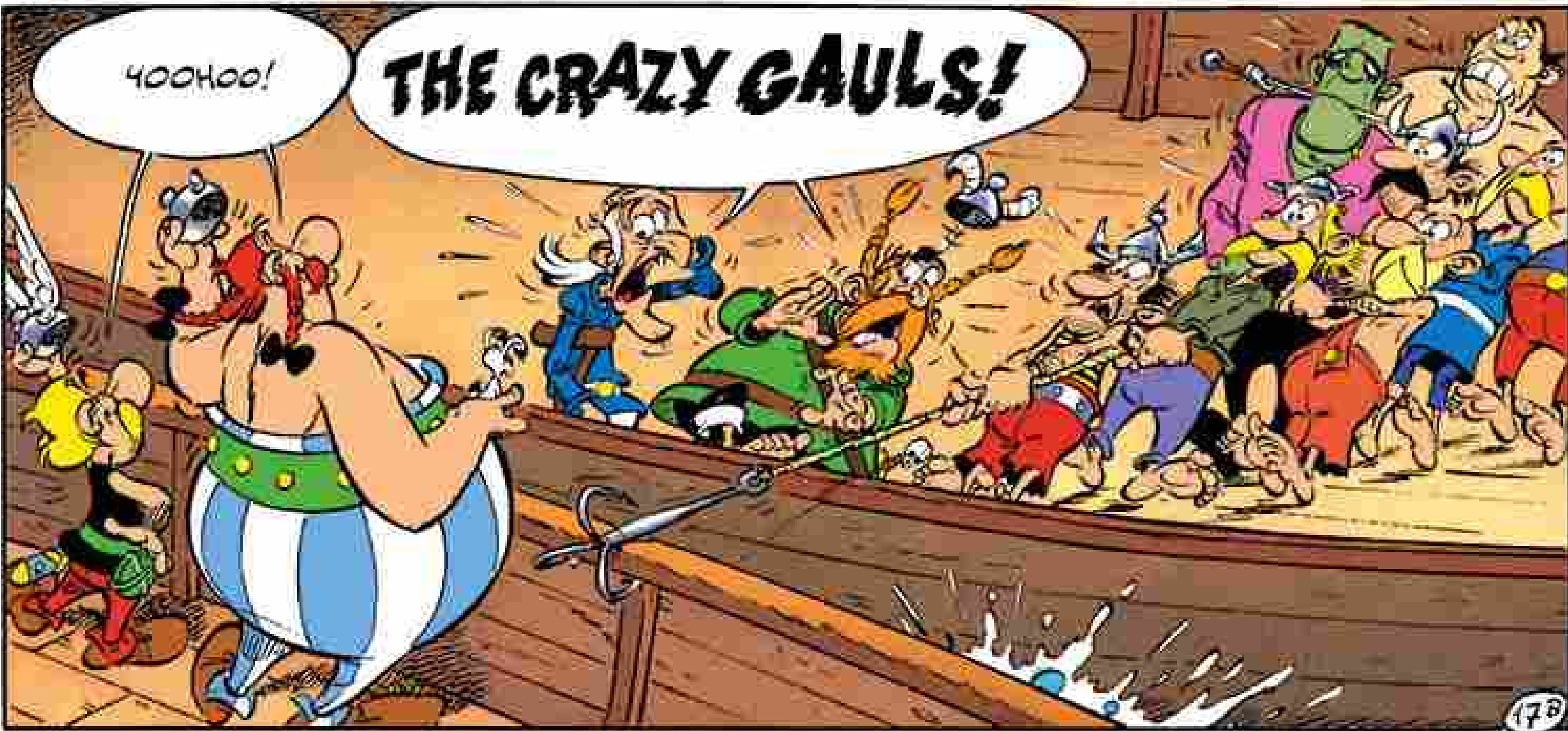
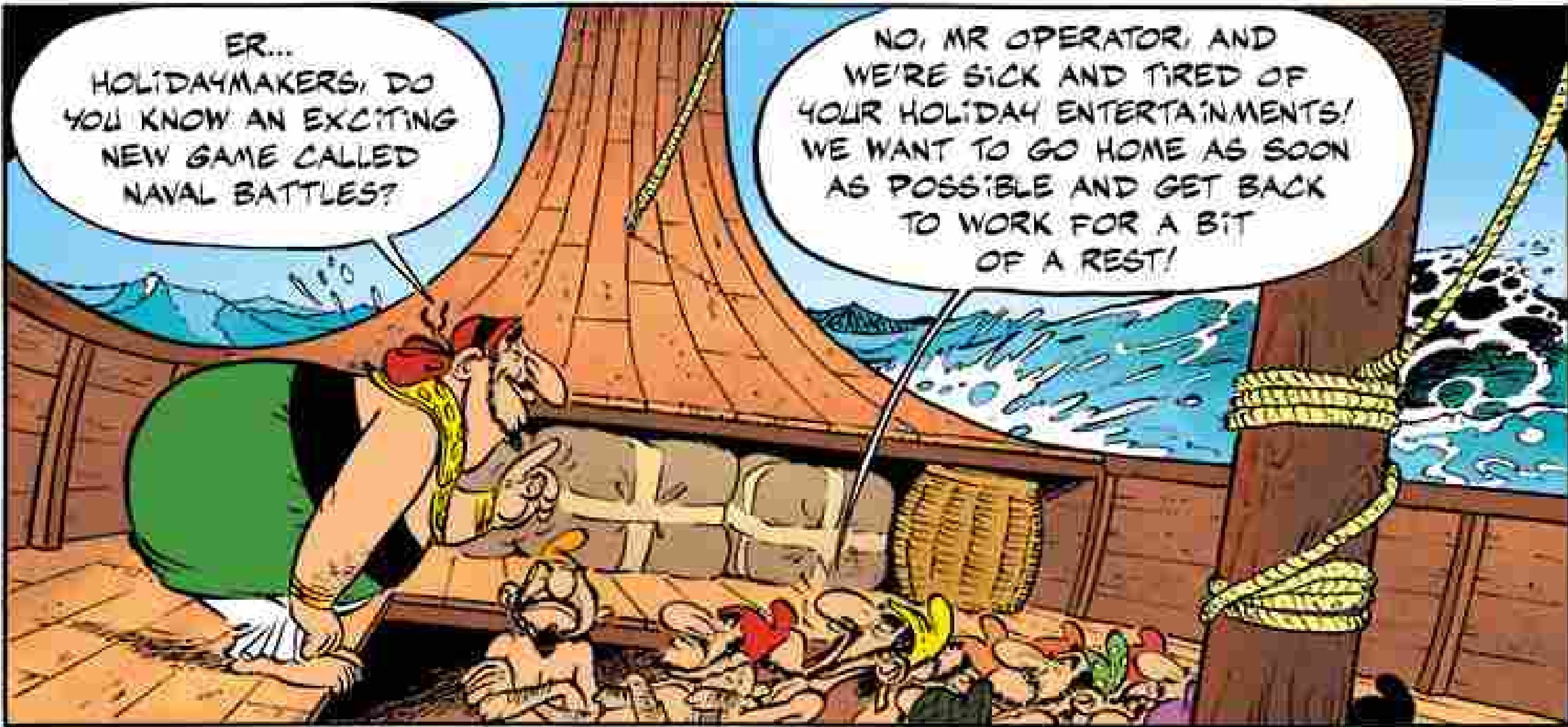
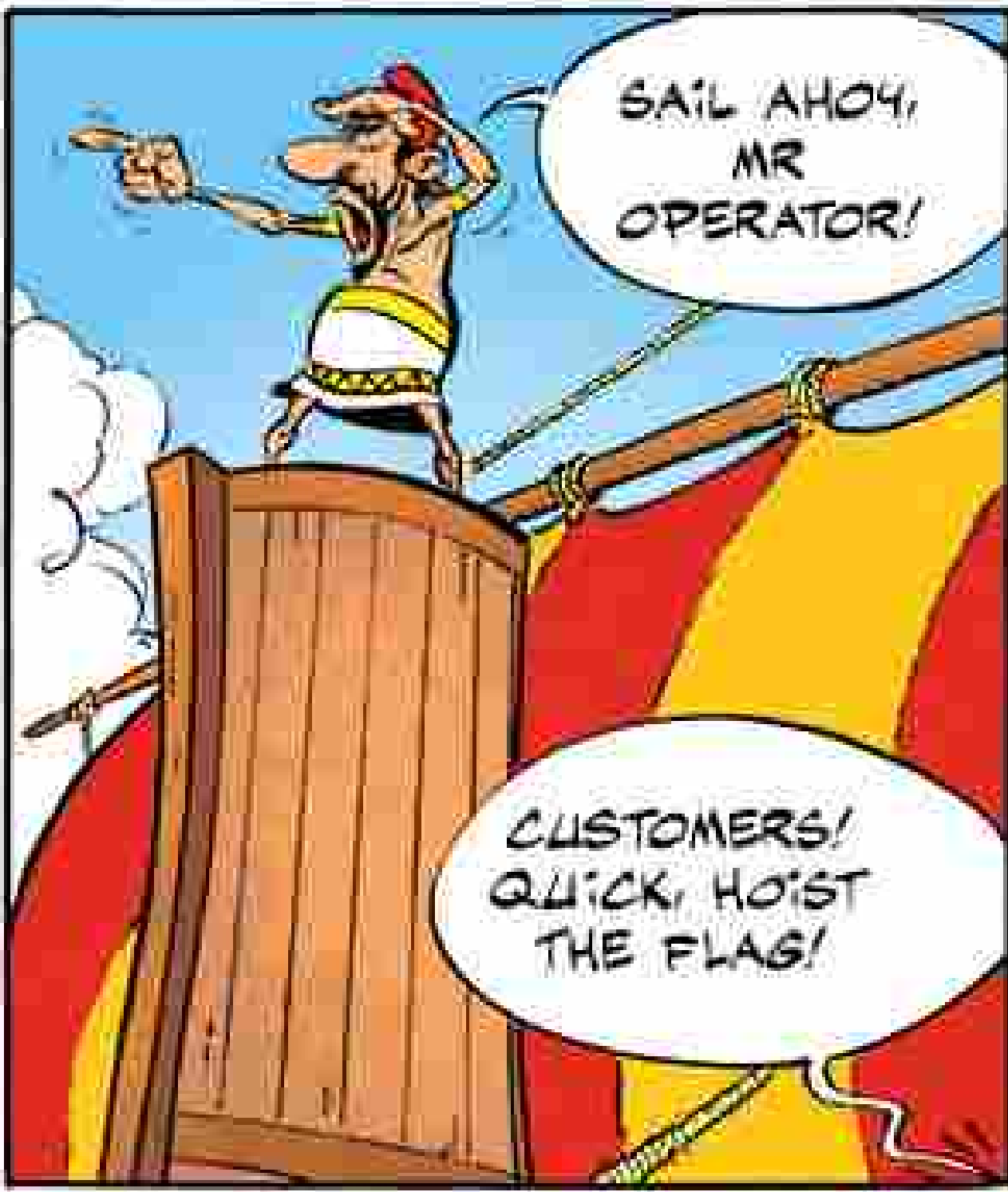
TAKE IT EASY! YOU MAY FIND I'M A FLY IN THE OINTMENT!

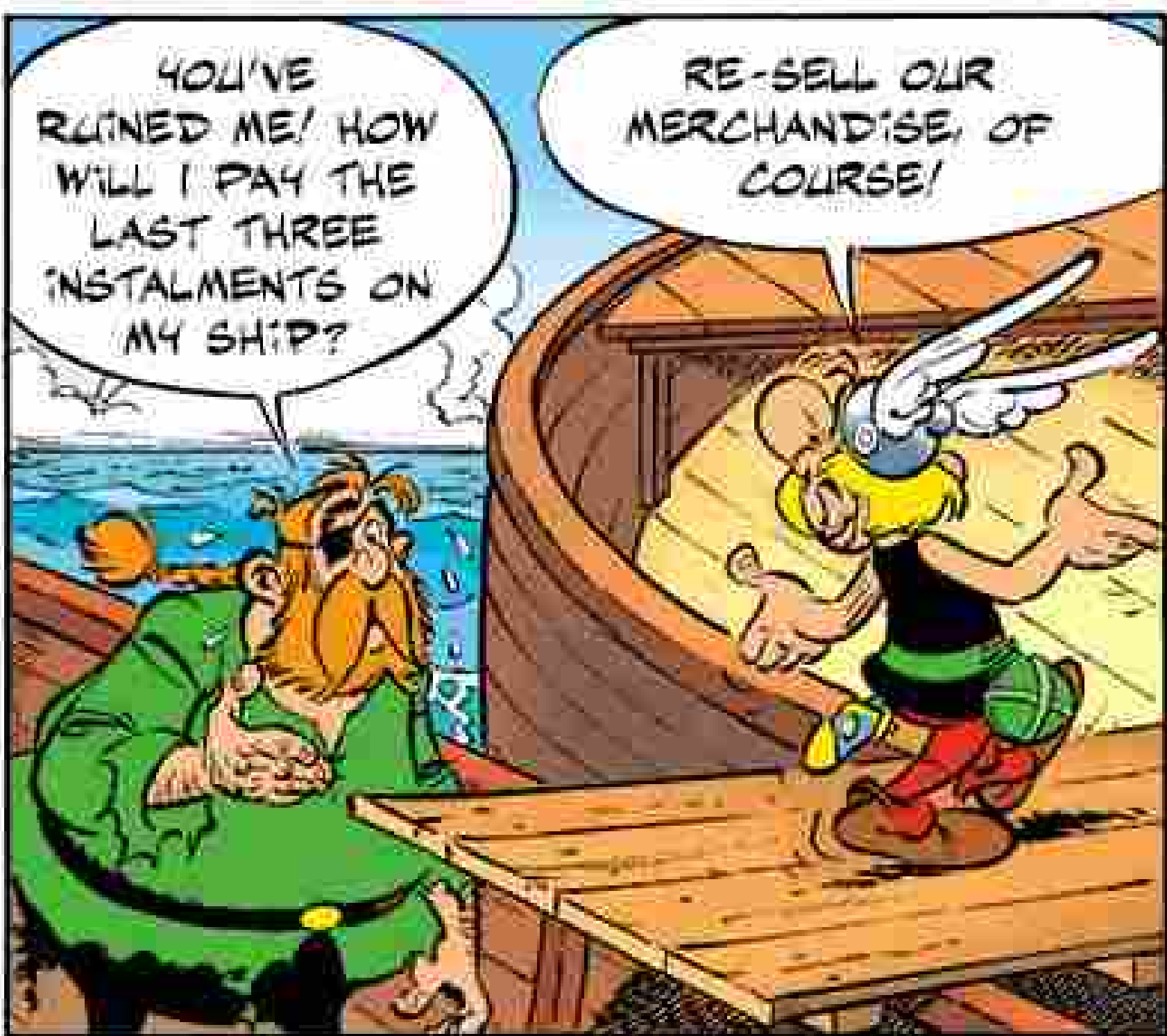
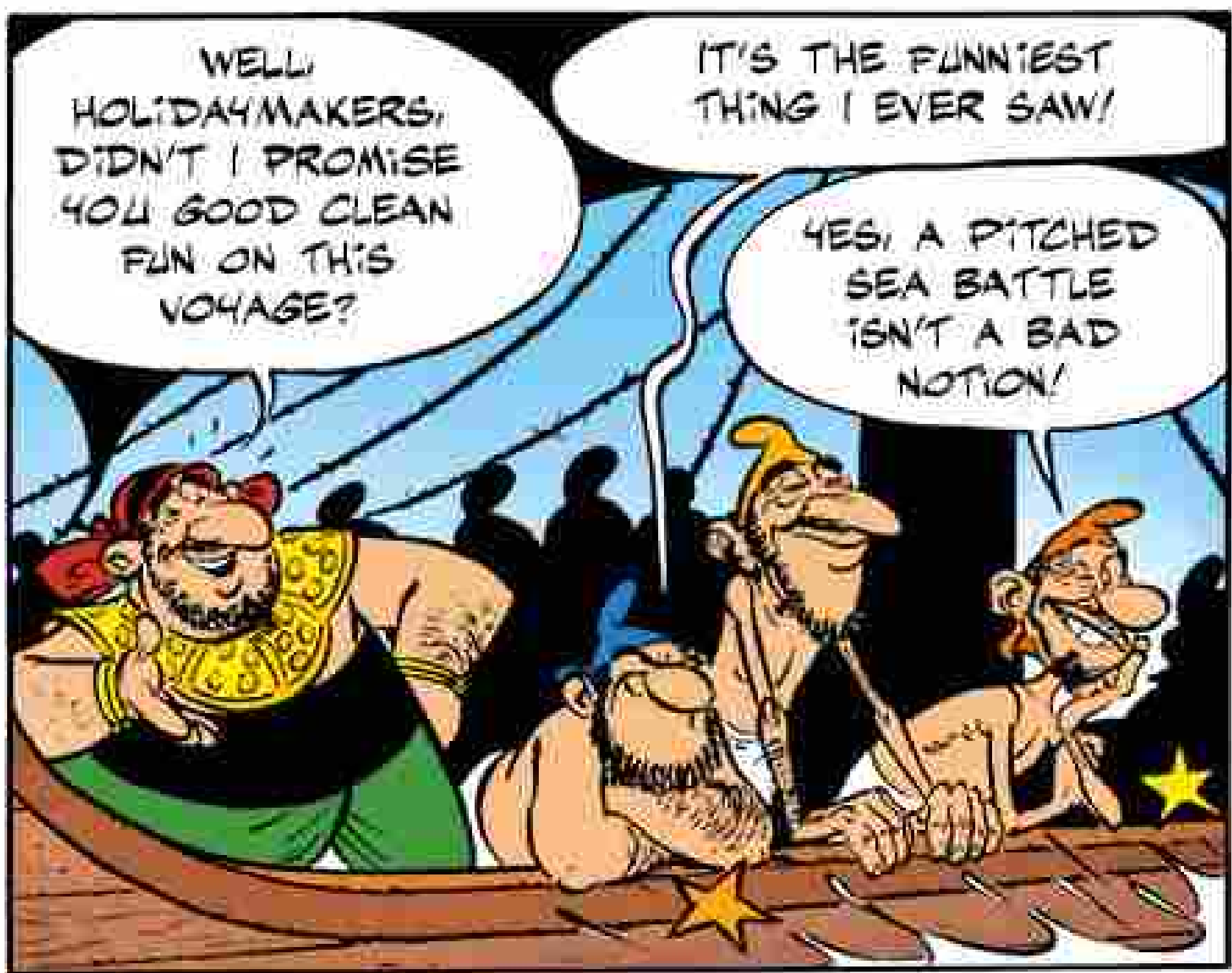


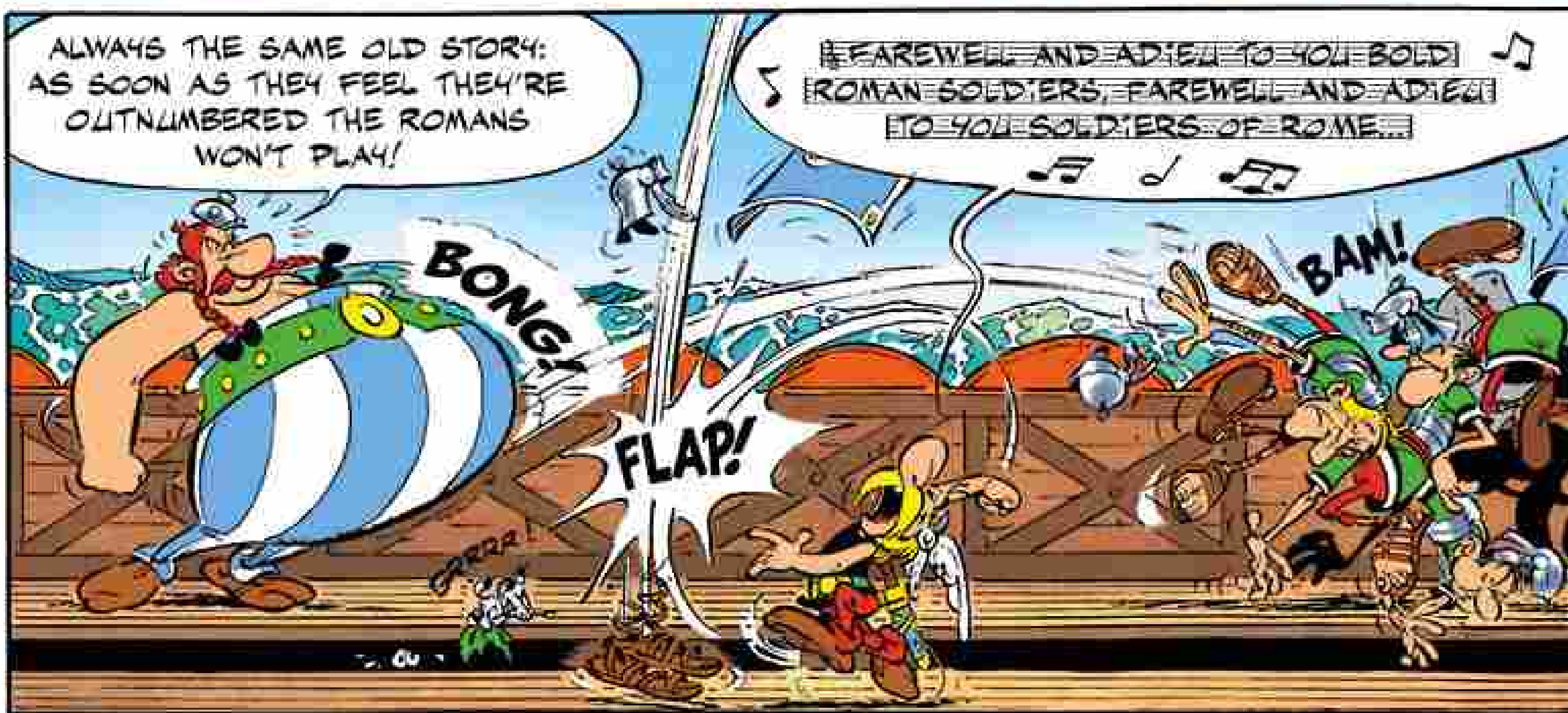
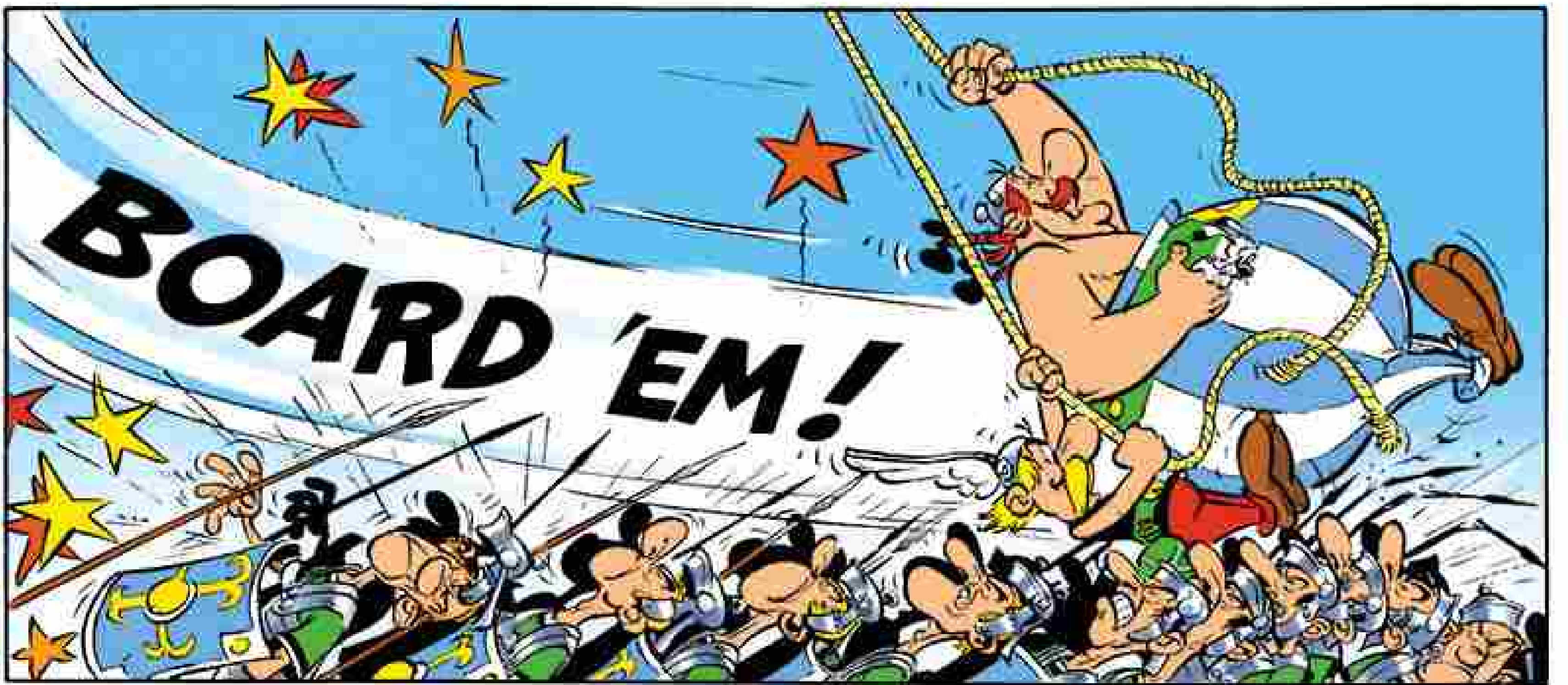
MEANWHILE, SAILING THE HIGH SEAS...

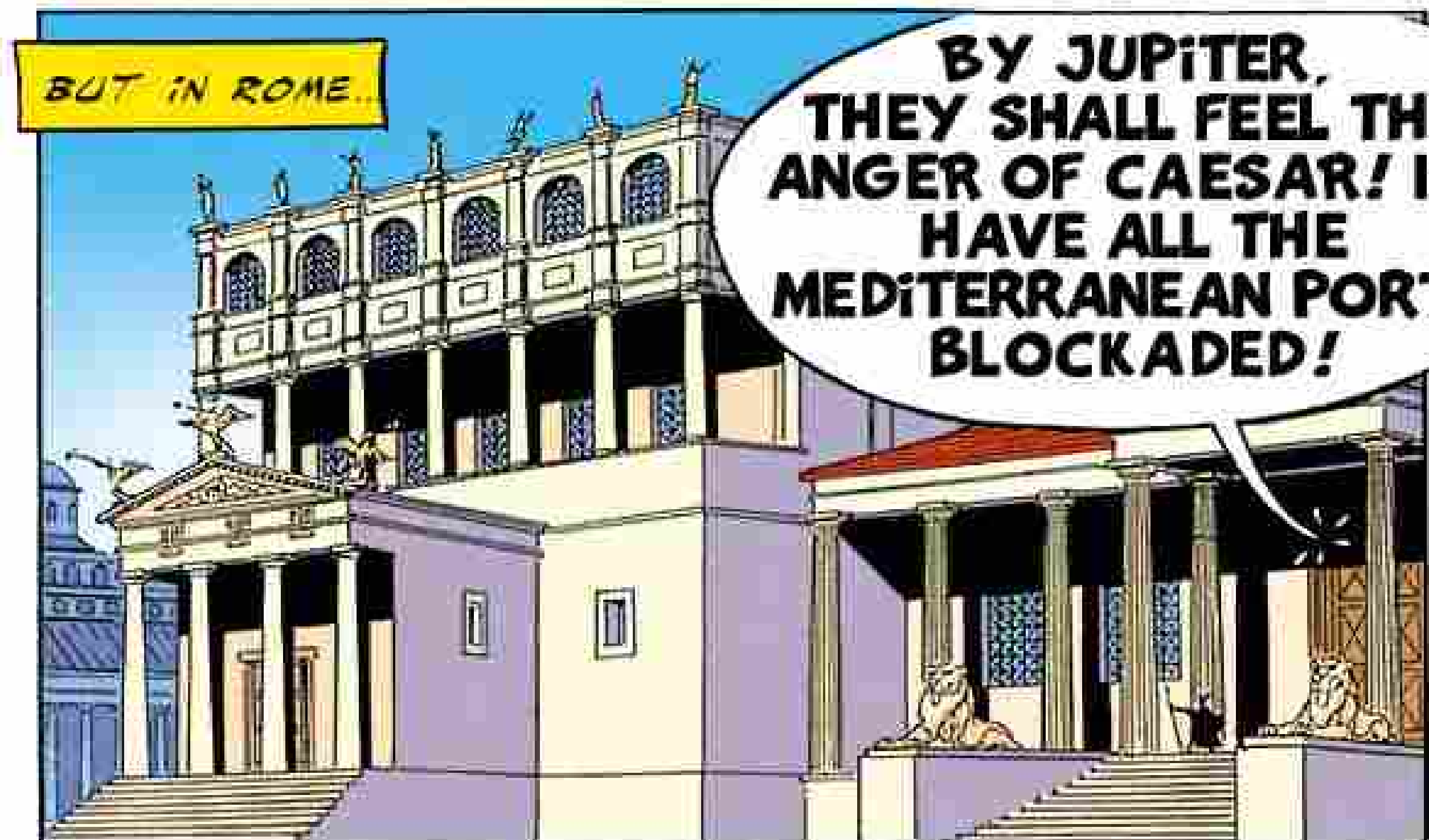
IT'S A FUNNY THING, ASTERIX. DUBBELOSIX HASN'T BEEN ATTRACTING INSECTS LATELY!

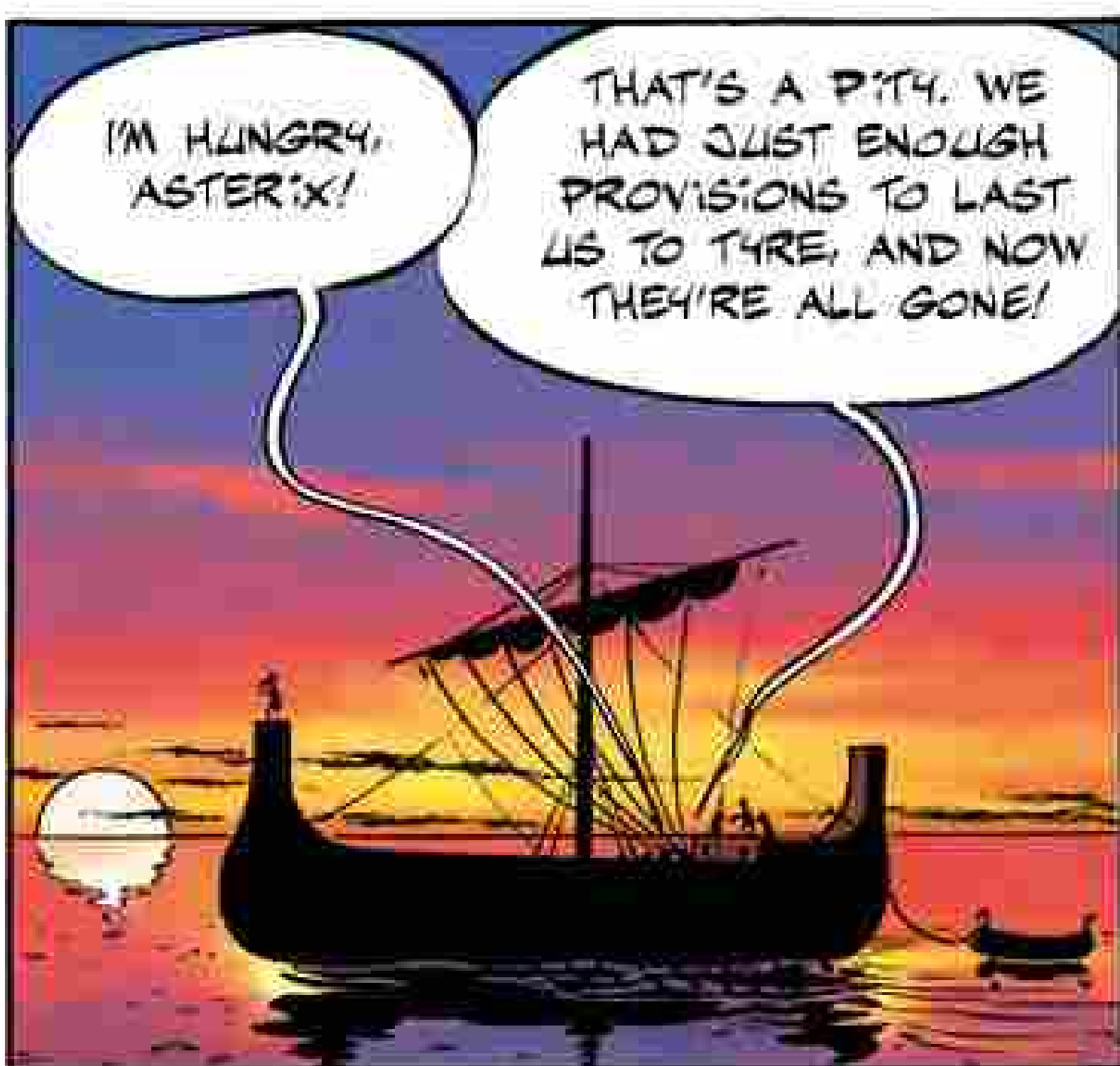
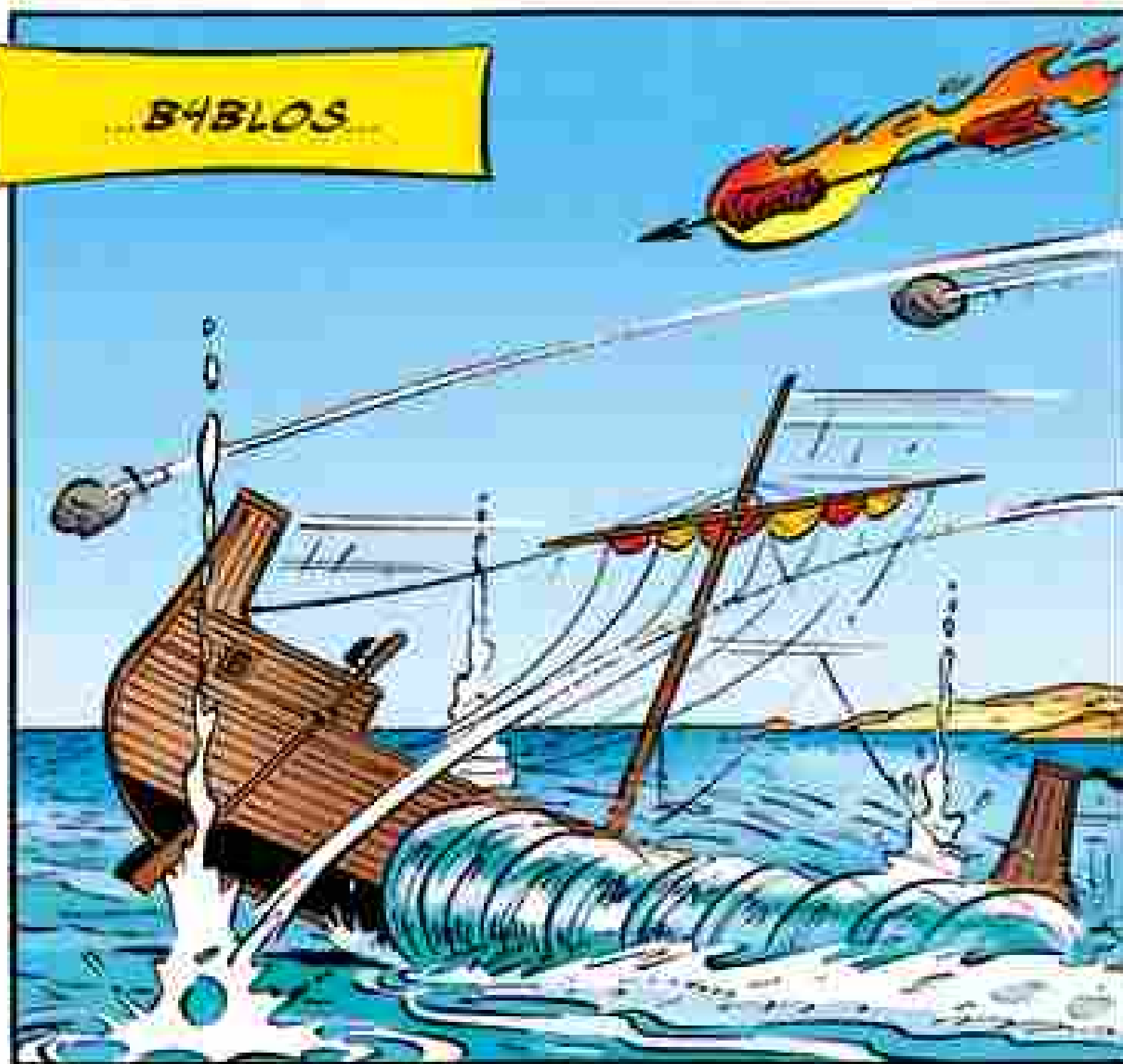
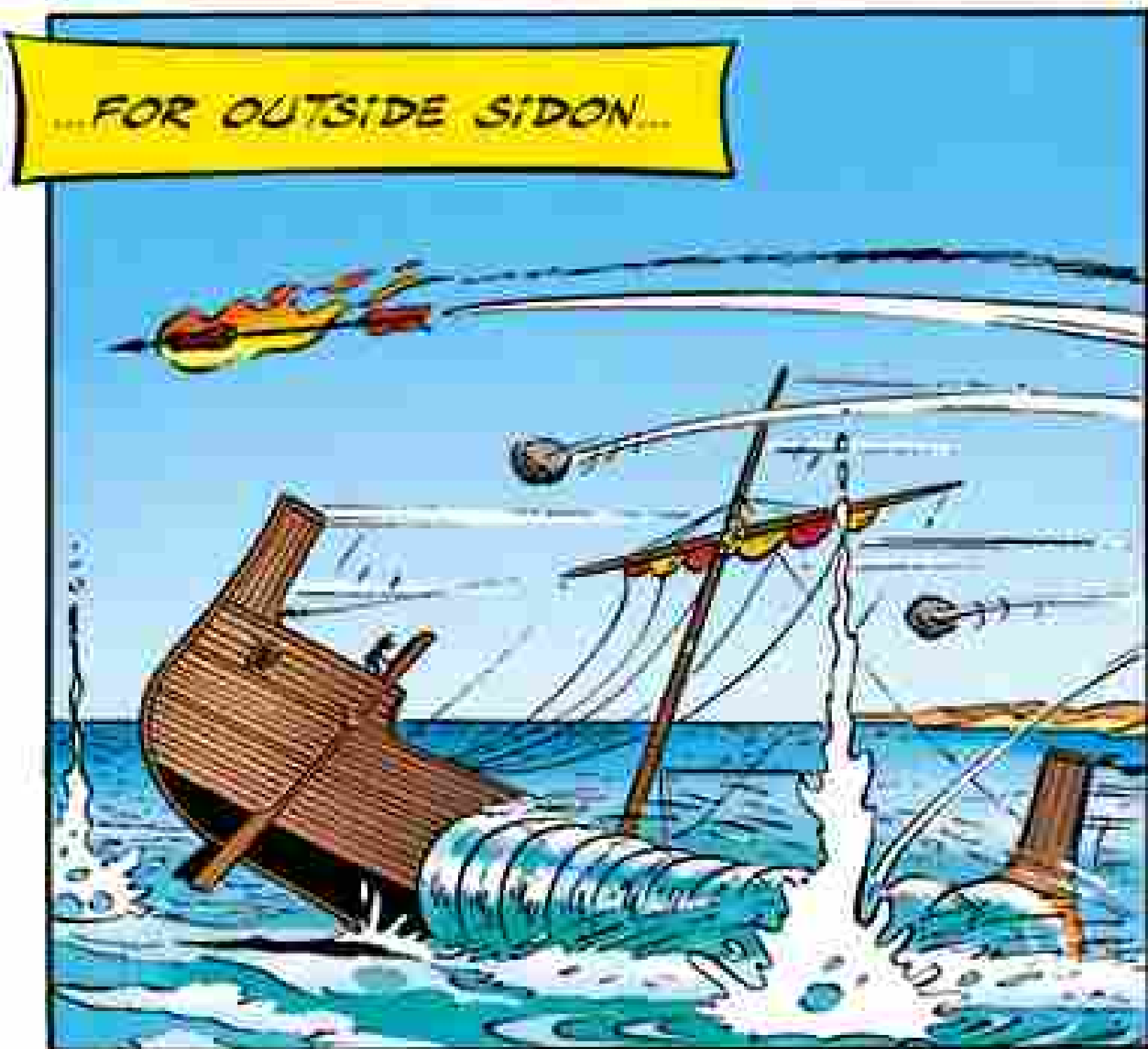
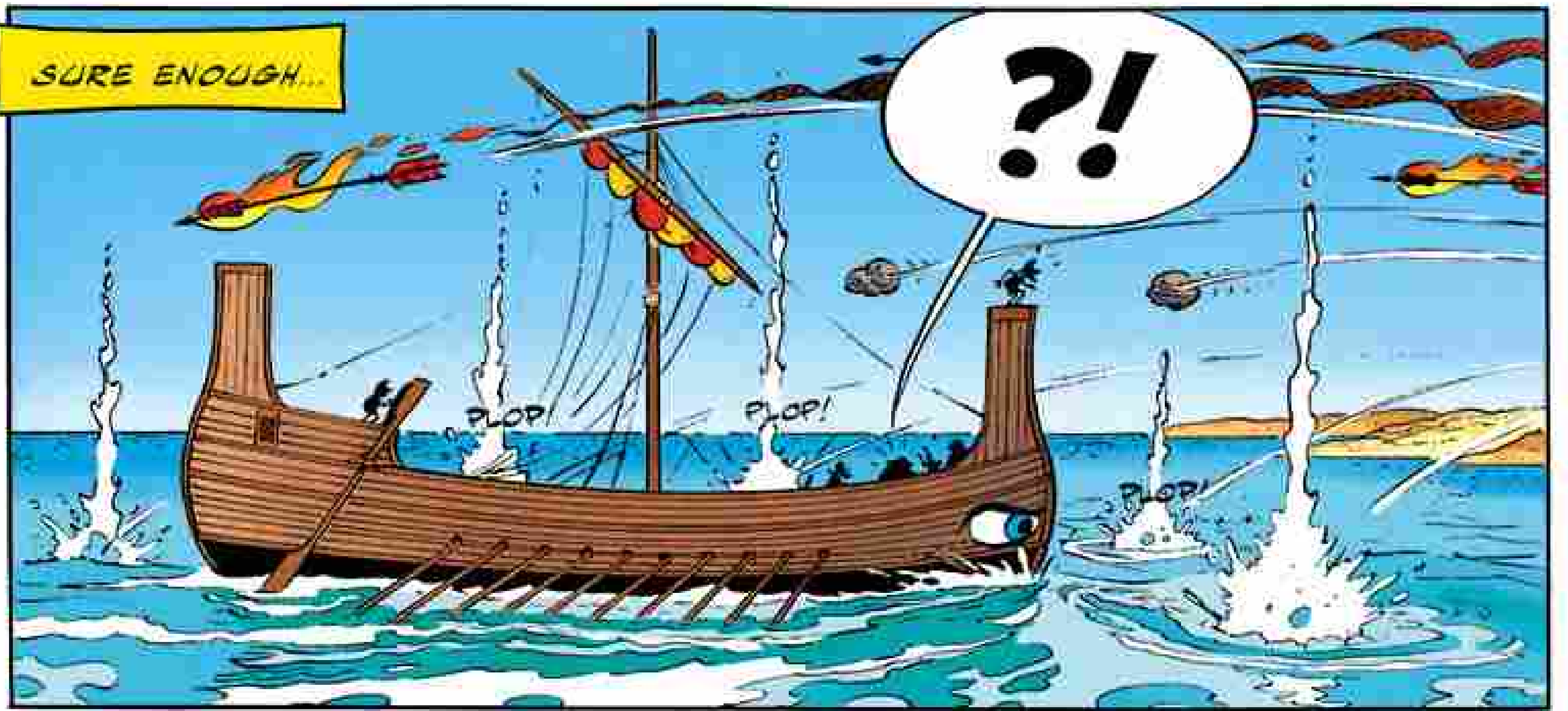
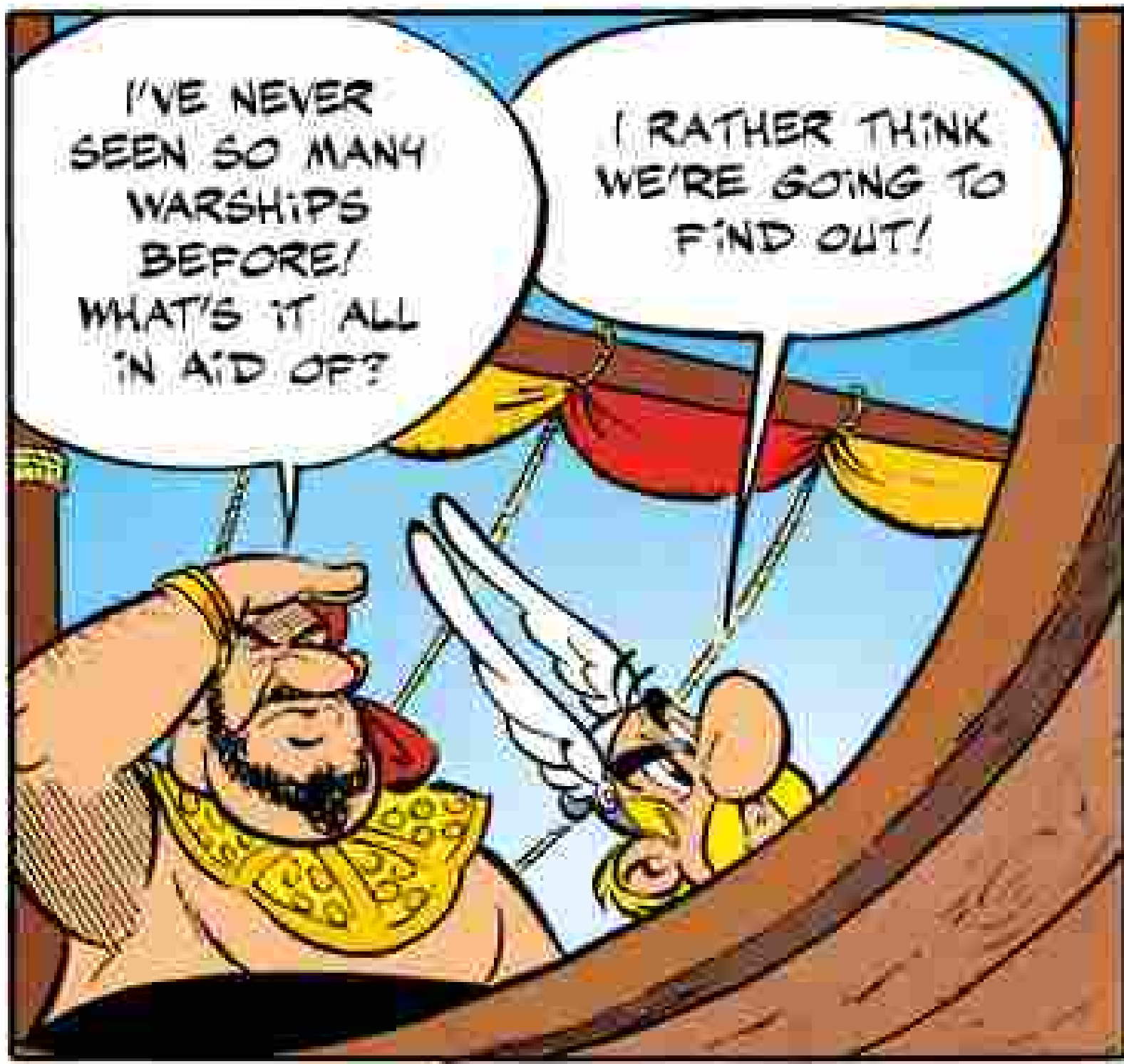
NO, I FANCY THERE ARE NO FLIES ON HIM!

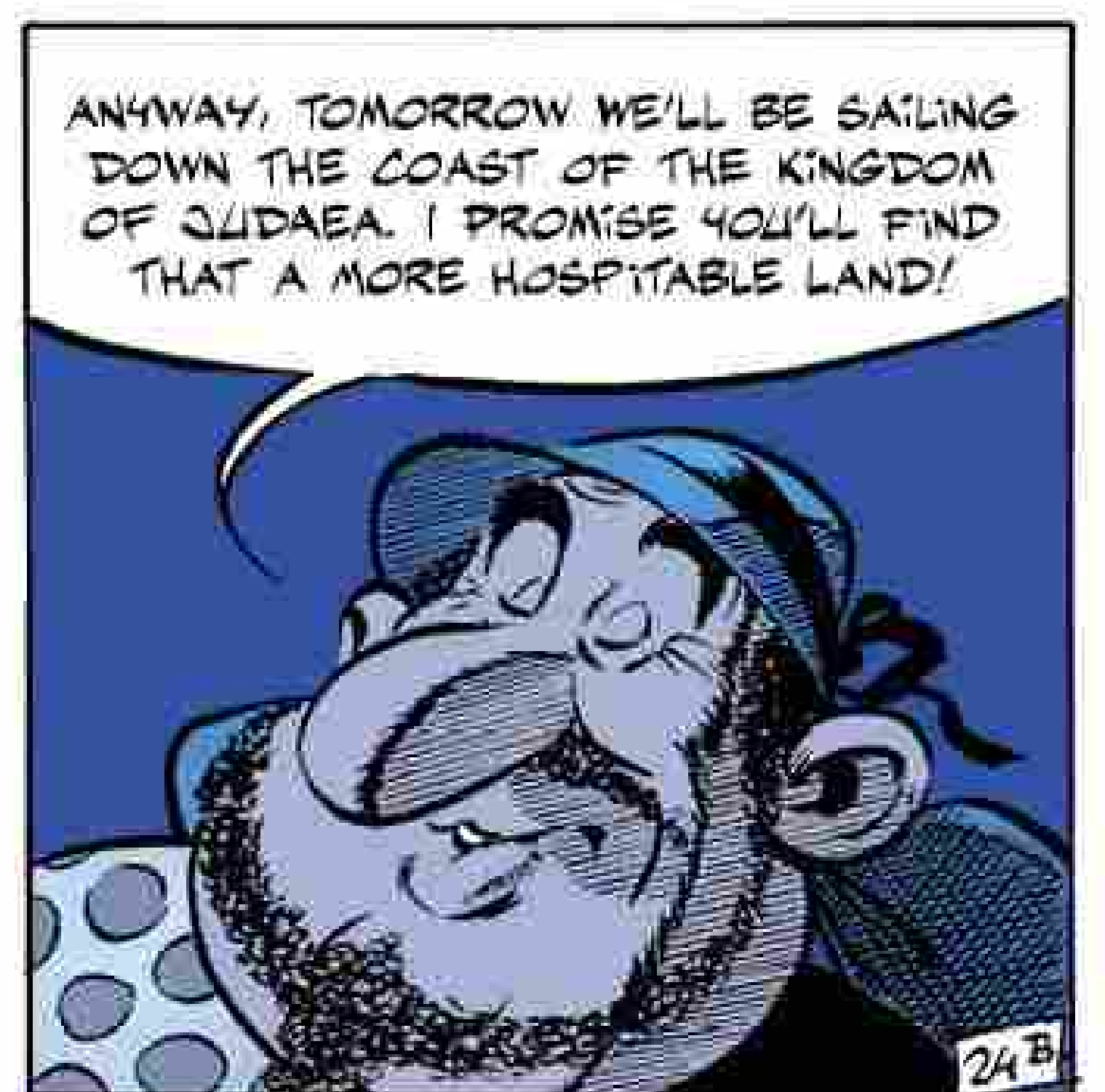
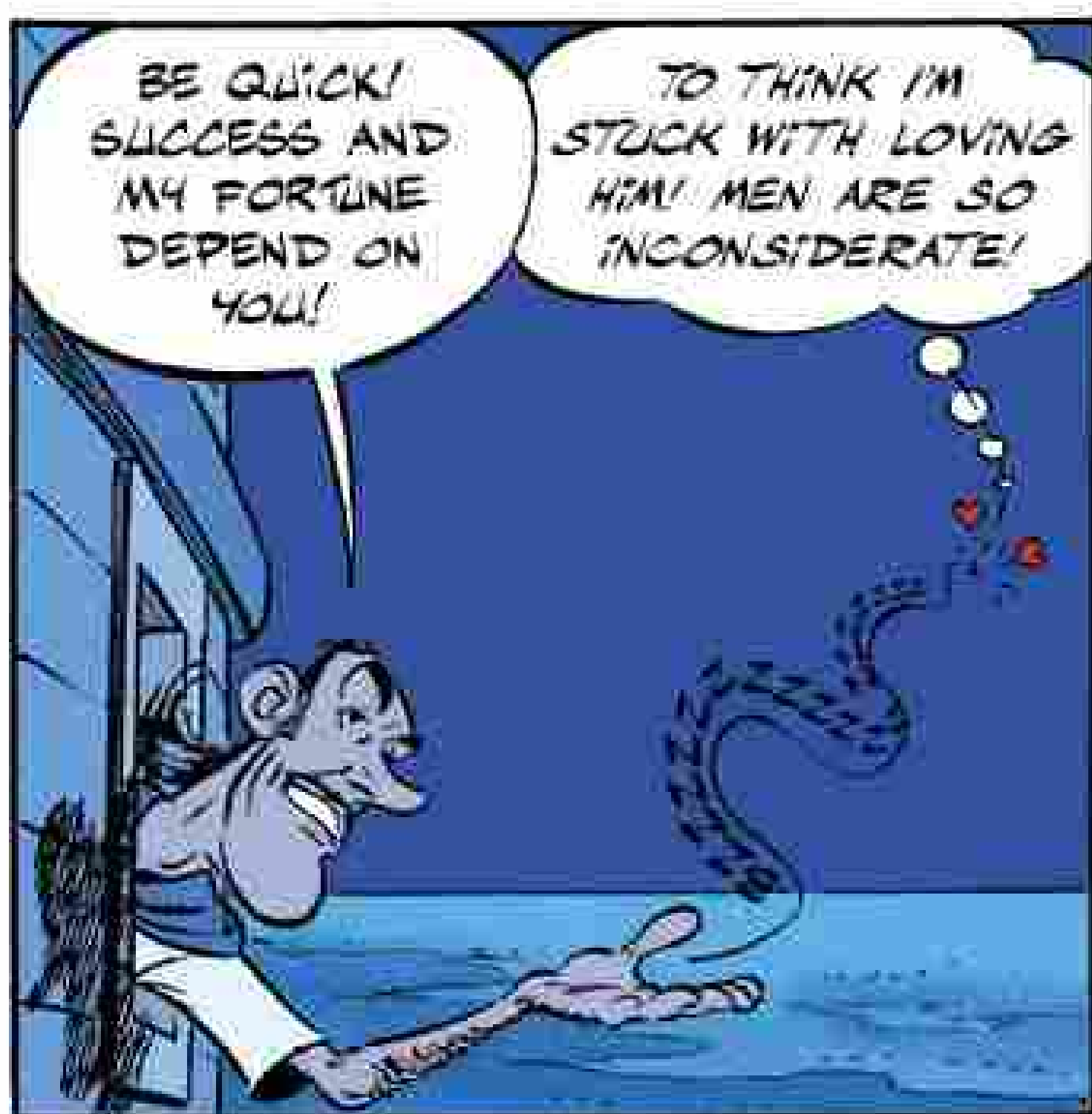
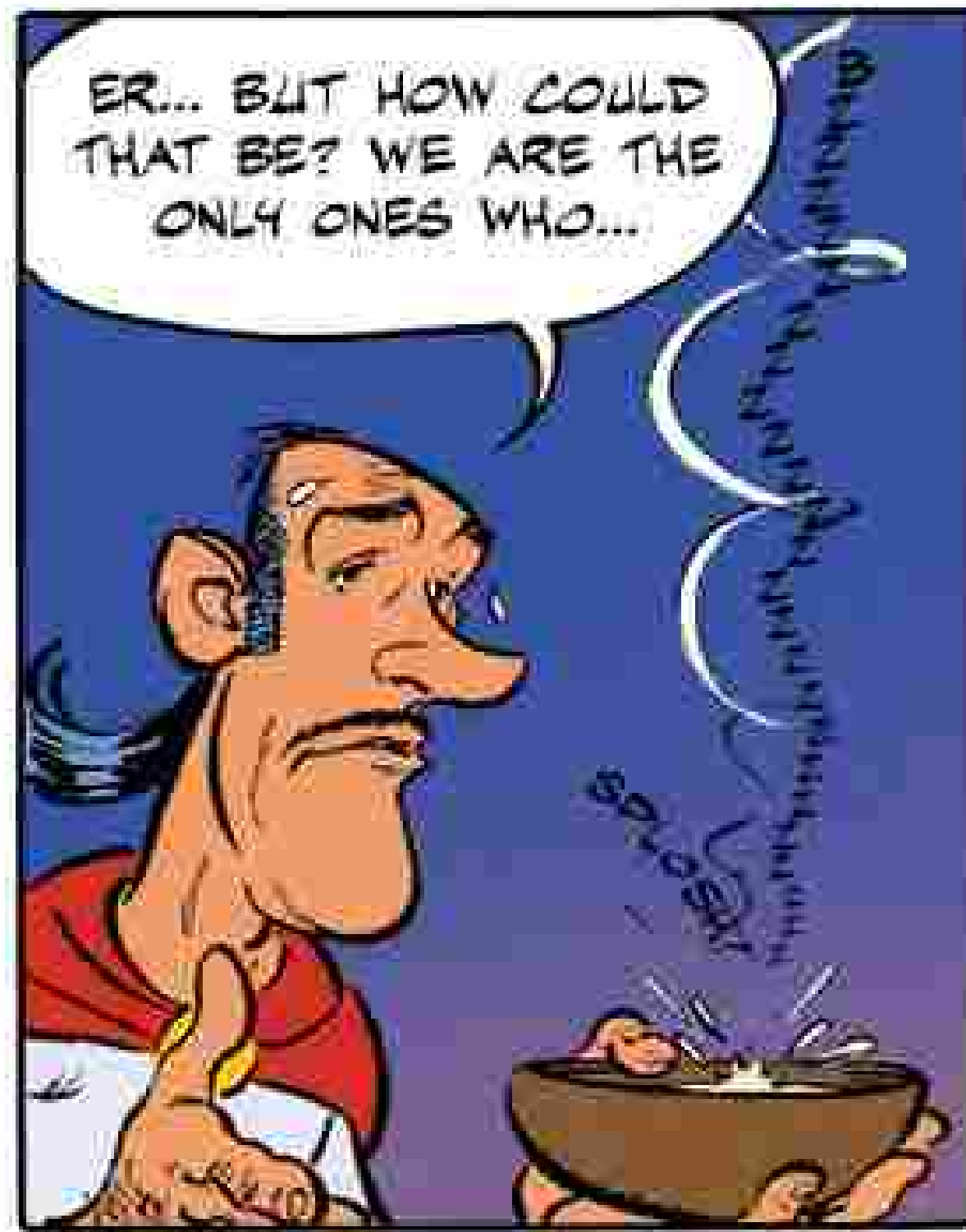


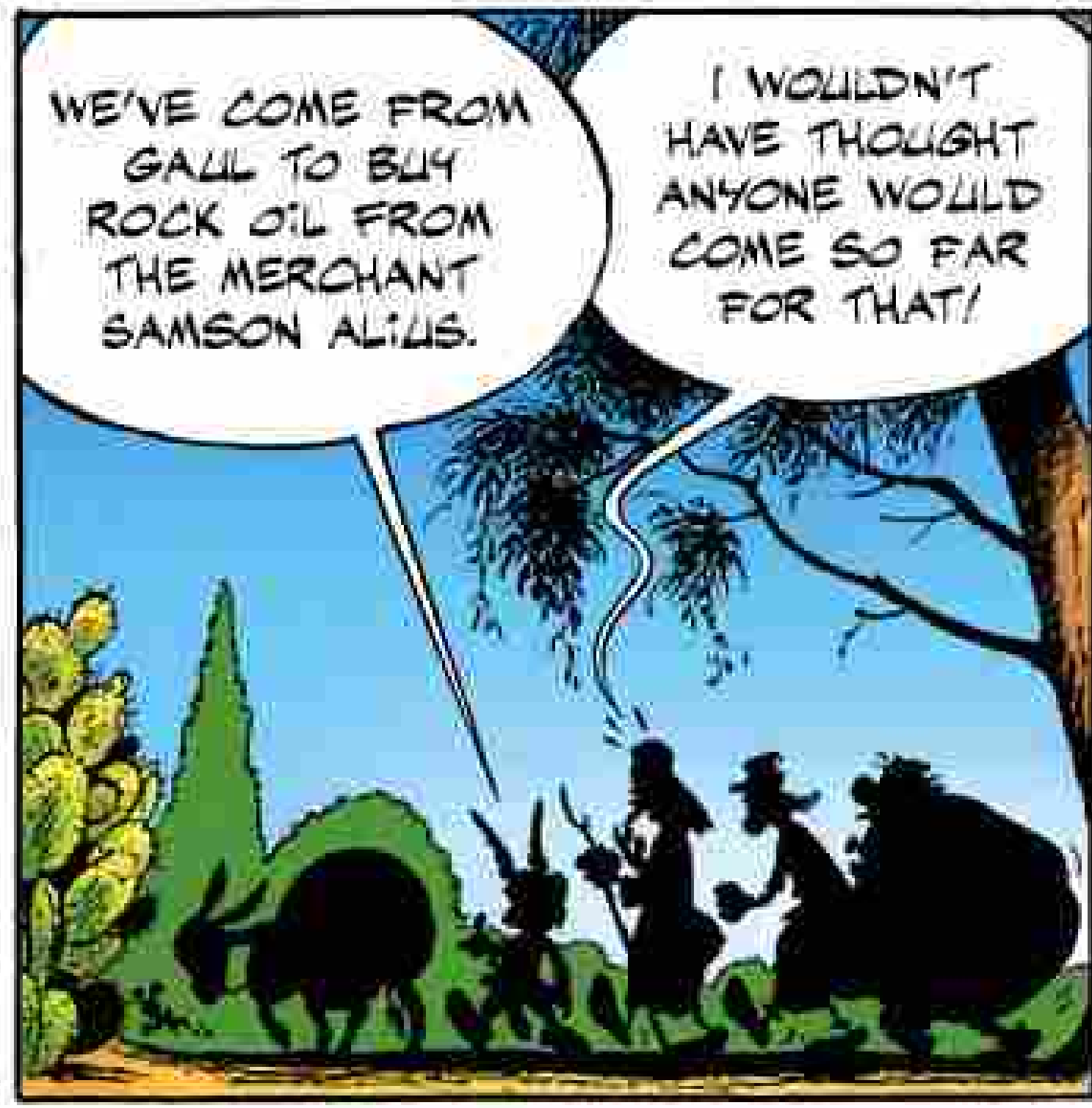
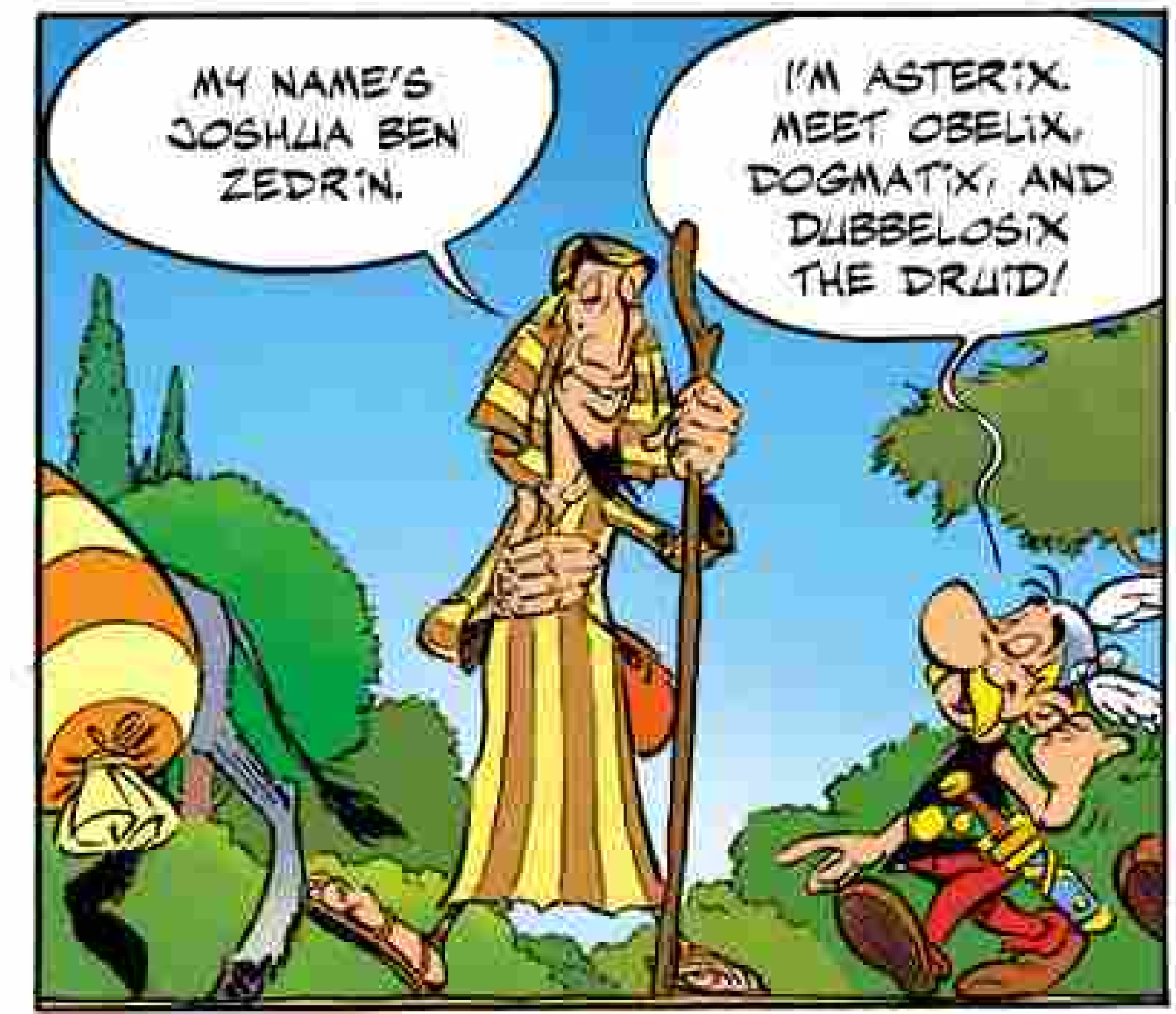
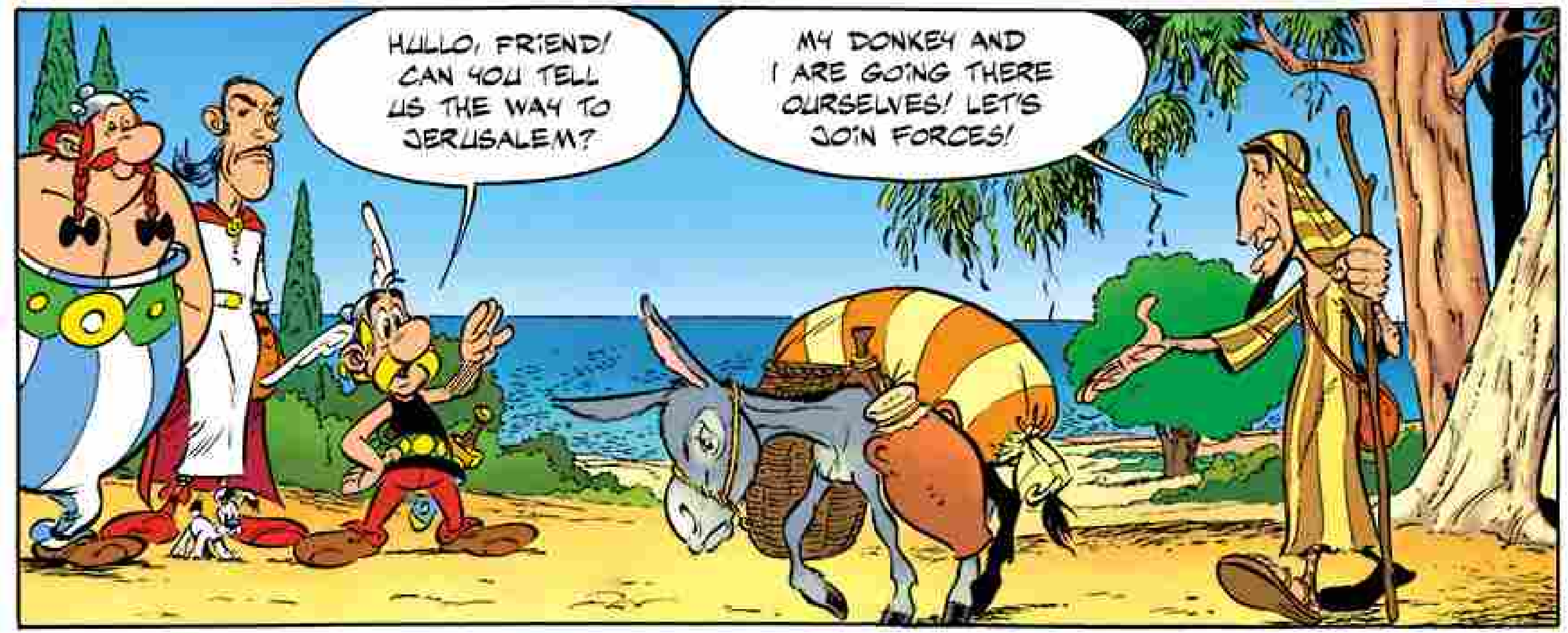
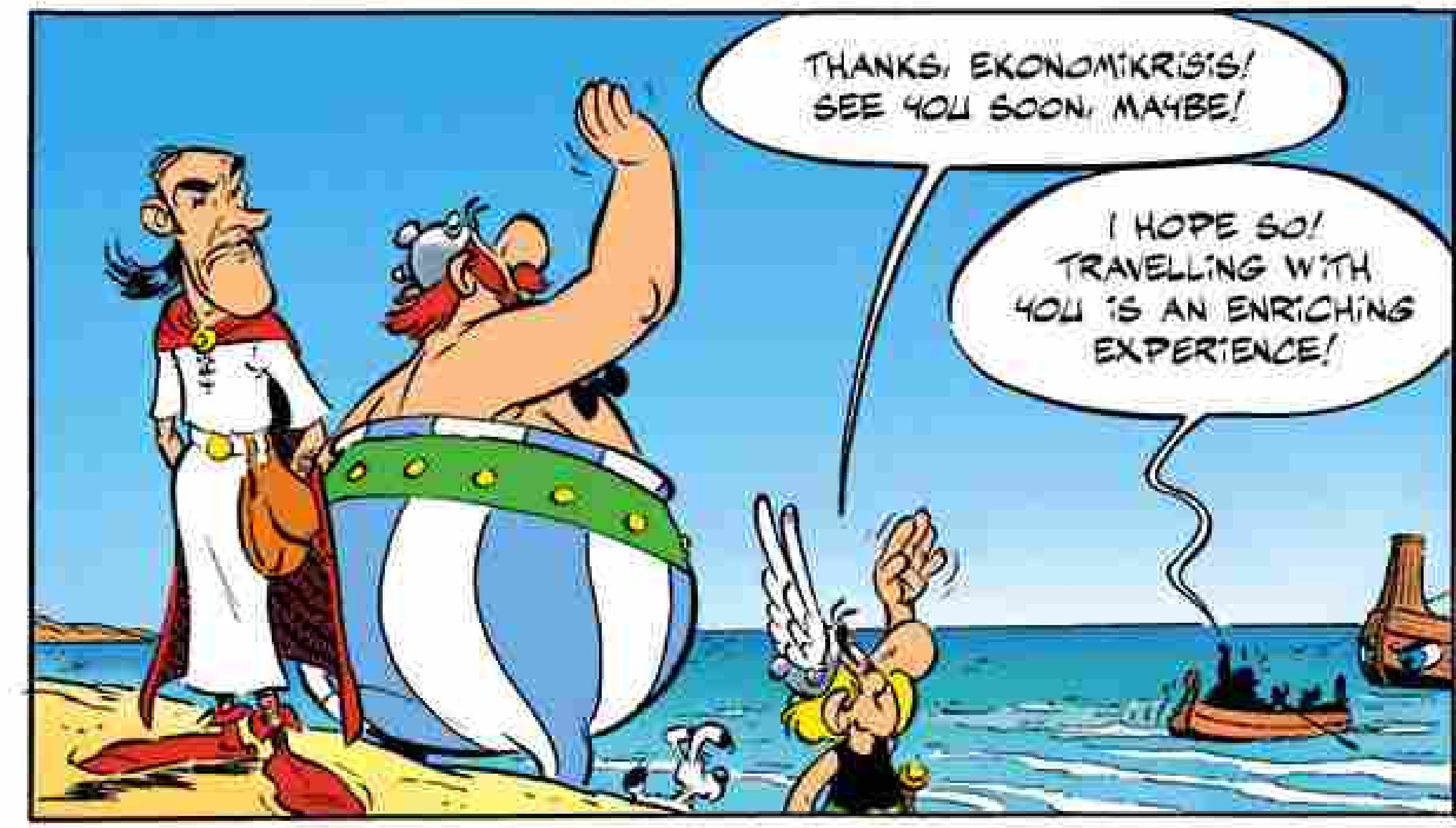


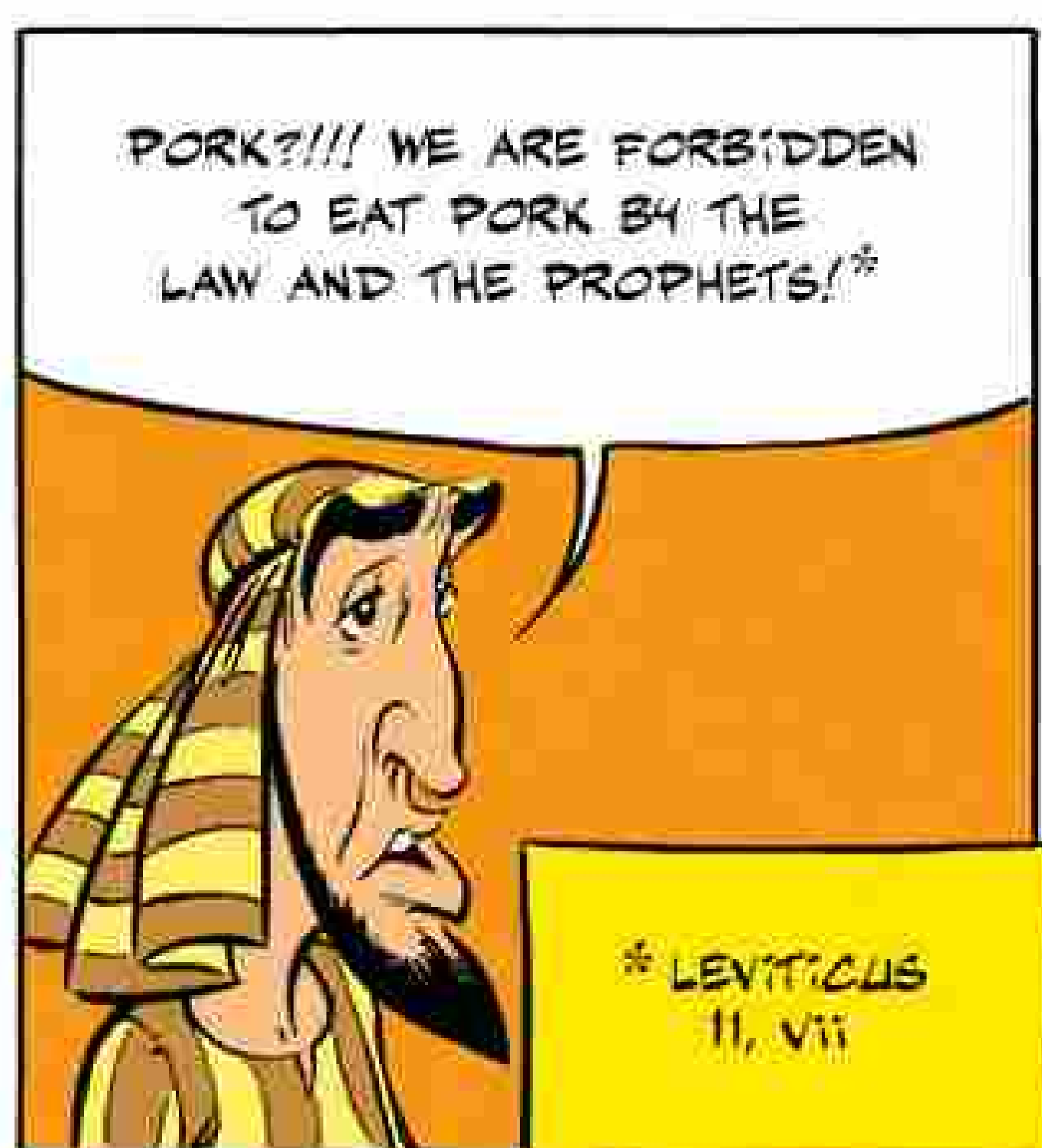
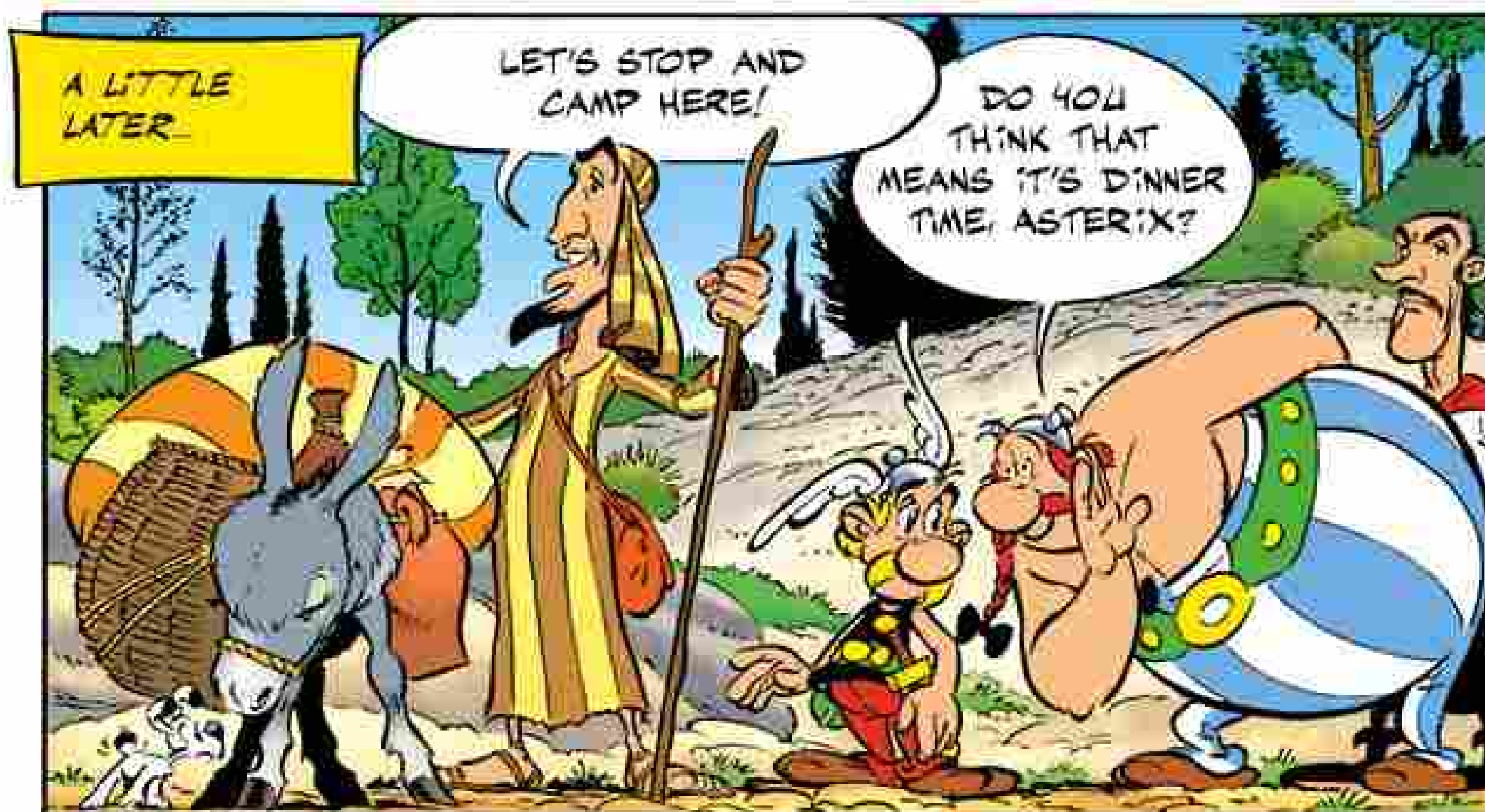




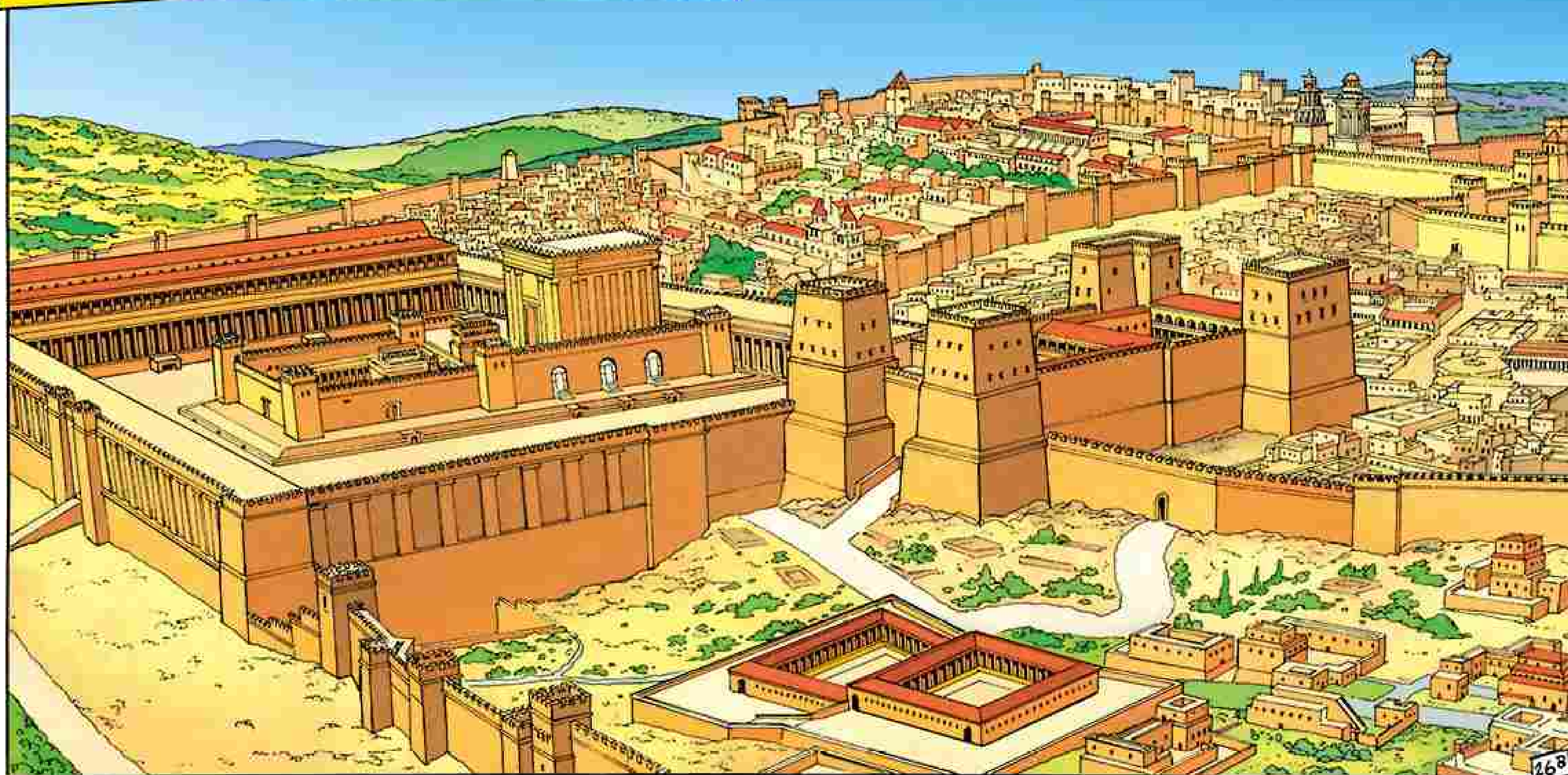


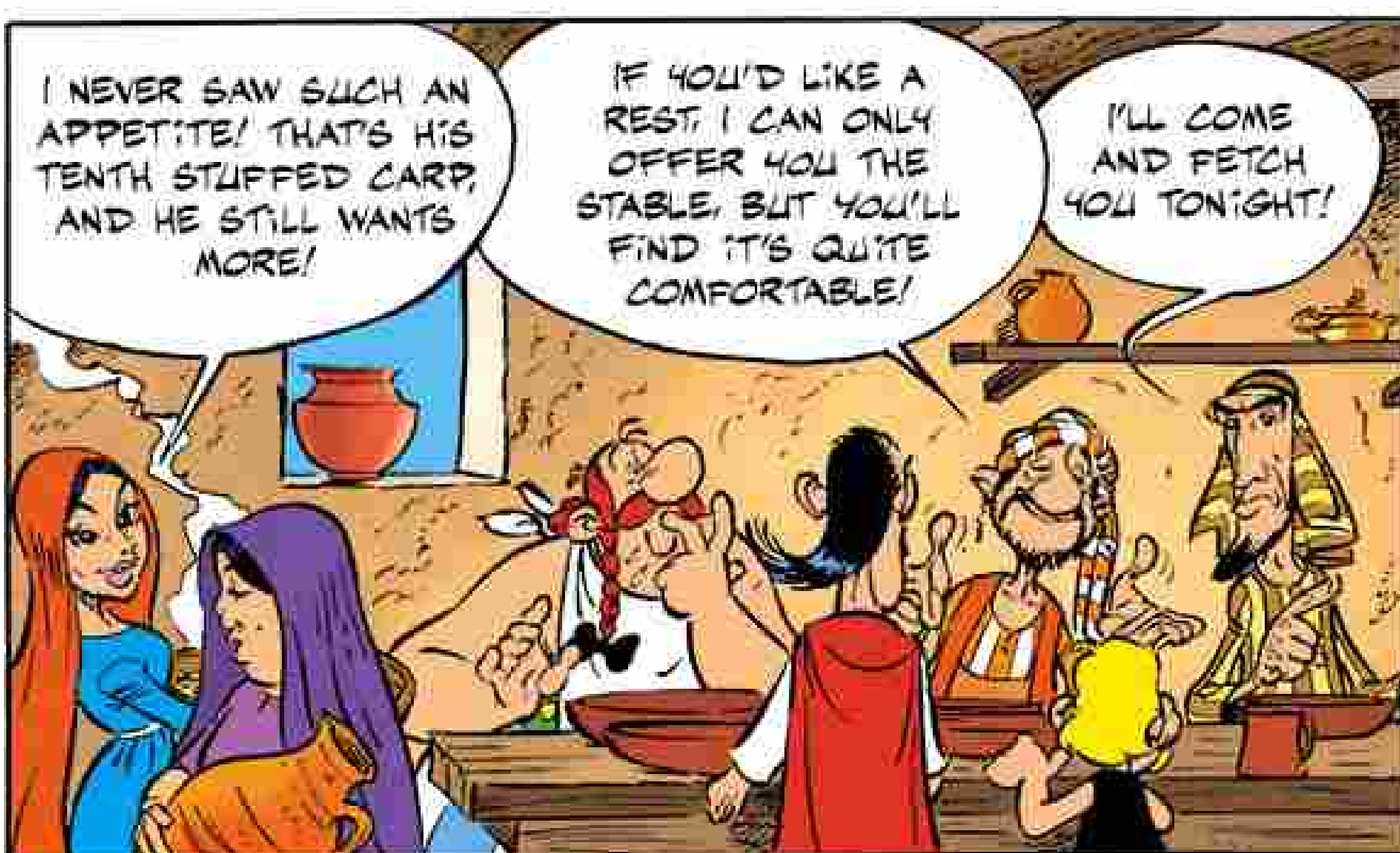
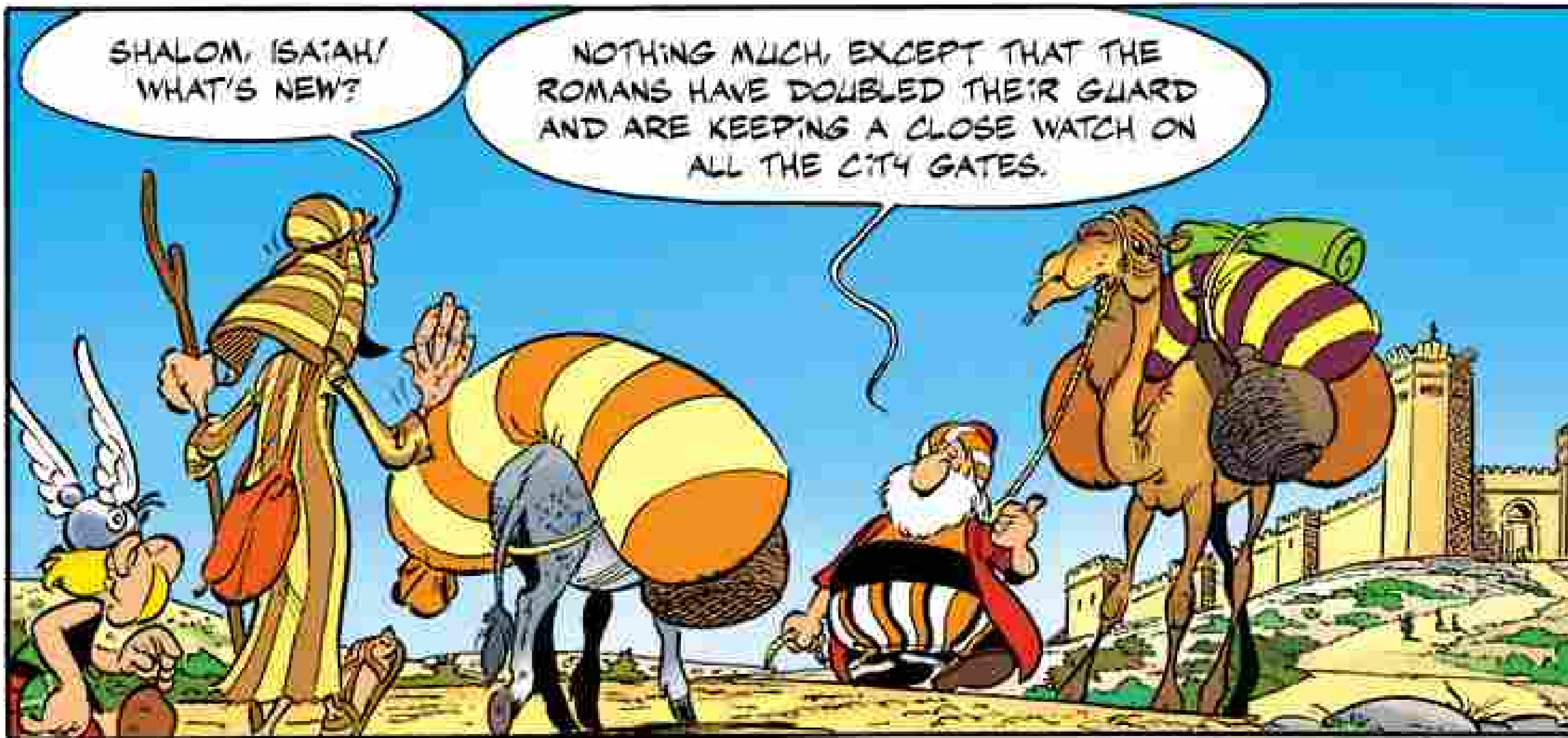






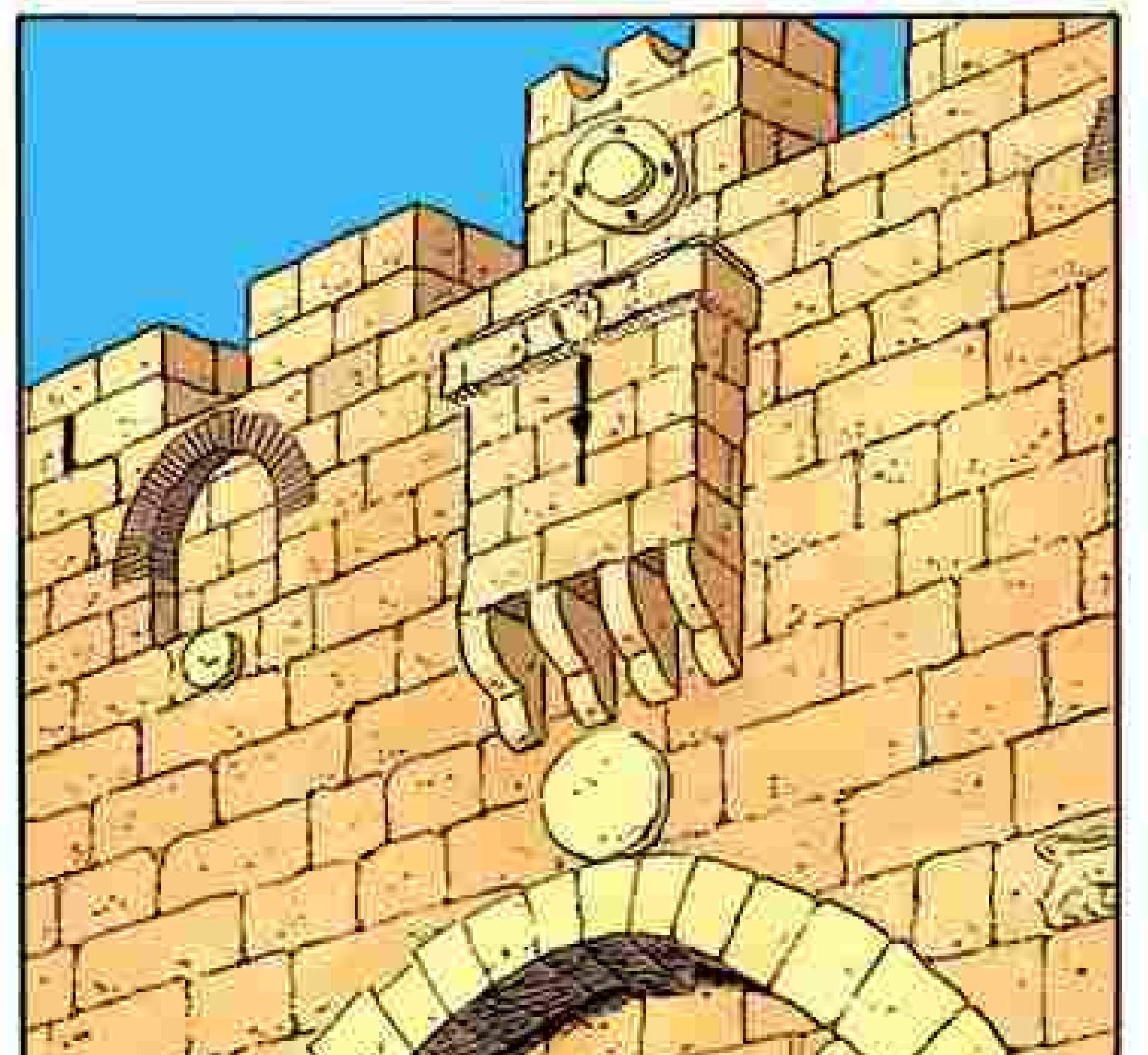
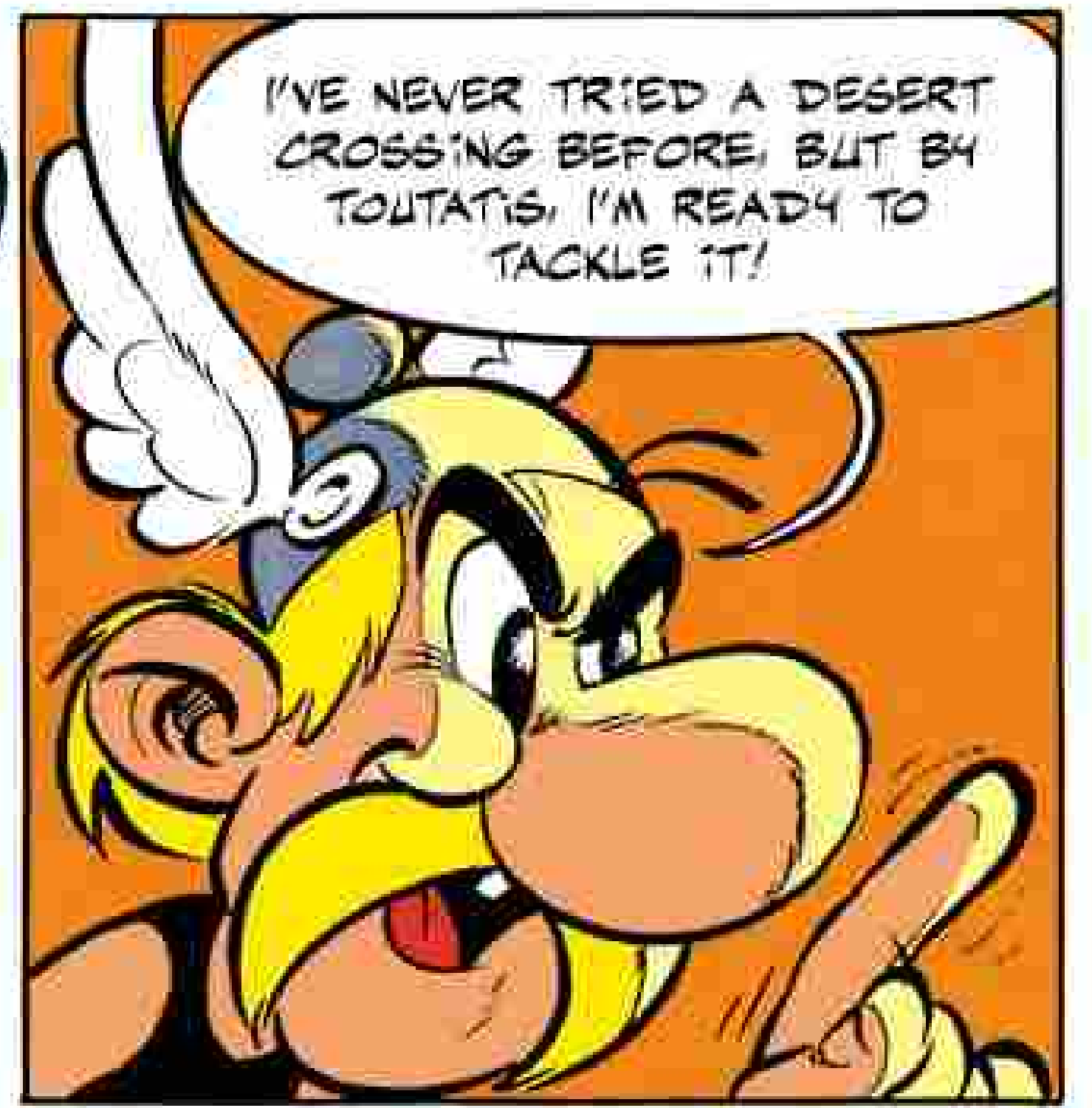
AT LAST, AFTER SEVERAL DAYS ON THE ROAD, OUR FRIENDS ARRIVE IN JERUSALEM, THE GREAT ROYAL CITY BEHIND ITS HIGH WALLS, LATER TO OPEN ITS GATES TO ALL THE FAITHS OF THE WORLD.











AT THE ROMAN
PROCURATOR'S PALACE...



AVE, O PONTIUS PIRATE!
THE GAULS GOT AWAY, AND
WE FEAR THEY'VE MADE
GOOD THEIR ESCAPE NOW!

ONCE THEY'RE OUTSIDE MY
TERRITORY, MY DEAR
DUBBELOSIX, I COULDN'T CARE
LESS WHAT THEY DO!

I WISH HE'D
STOP WASHING
HIS HANDS THE
WHOLE TIME!

WELL, NEVER MIND! ASTERIX
AND OBELIX ARE BOUND TO
GO BACK ON BOARD SHIP,
AND WHEN THEY DO WE'LL BE
WAITING WITH QUITE A
RECEPTION COMMITTEE!



MEANWHILE...



WE'RE COMING TO
THE DEAD SEA!

IT MAKES ME
SICK, ASTERIX!

I HAVE TO ADMIT
THESE MOUNTS ARE
RATHER BUMPY!

I DIDN'T MEAN THAT! IT
MAKES ME SICK TO THINK OF
THE RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
PRACTISED AGAINST BOARS
IN THIS COUNTRY!



THE SEA!
YIPPEE!!!



IT'S SO HOT I
COULD DO WITH
A NICE DIP!

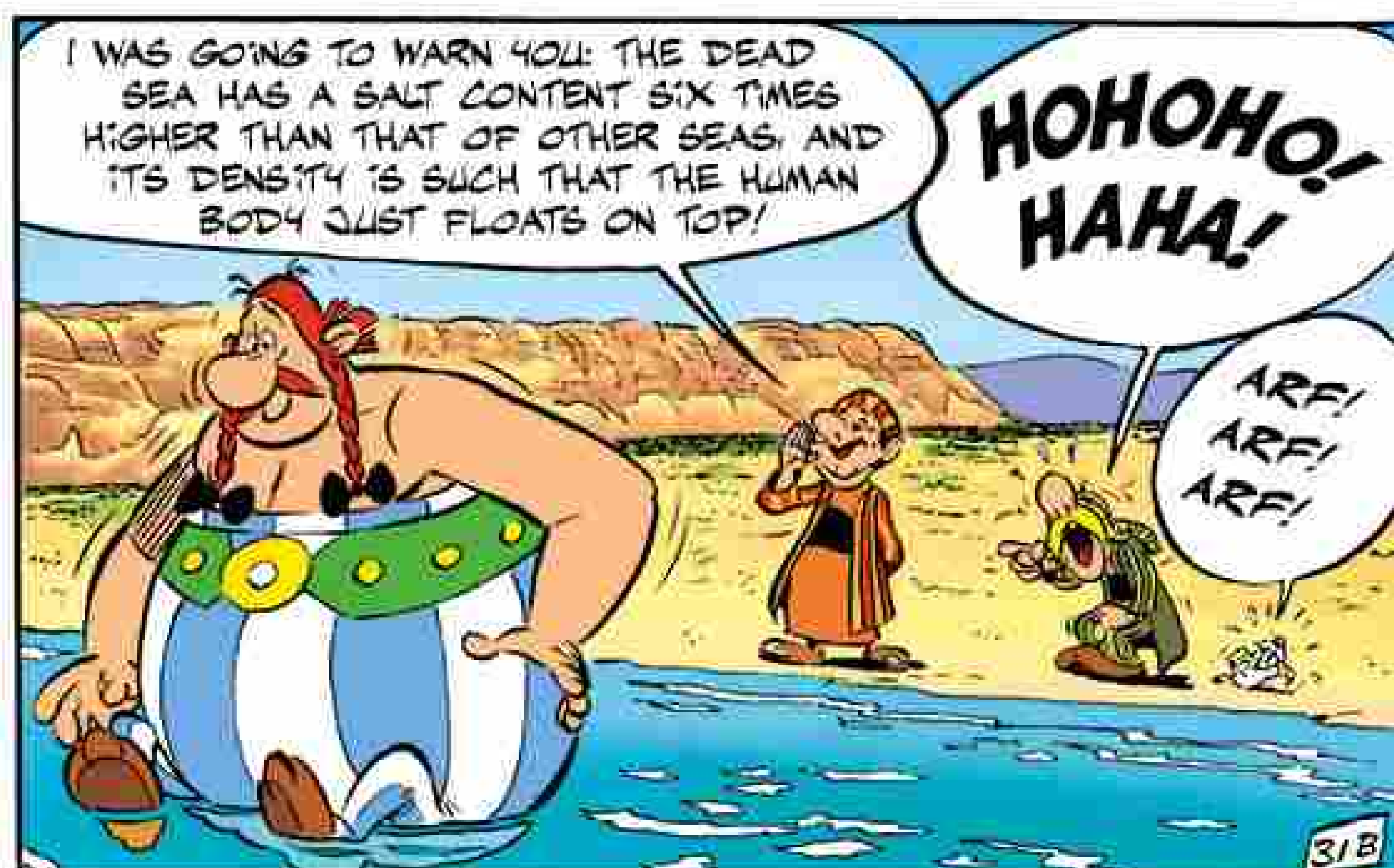
HEY,
WAIT!



HERE
GOES!



?

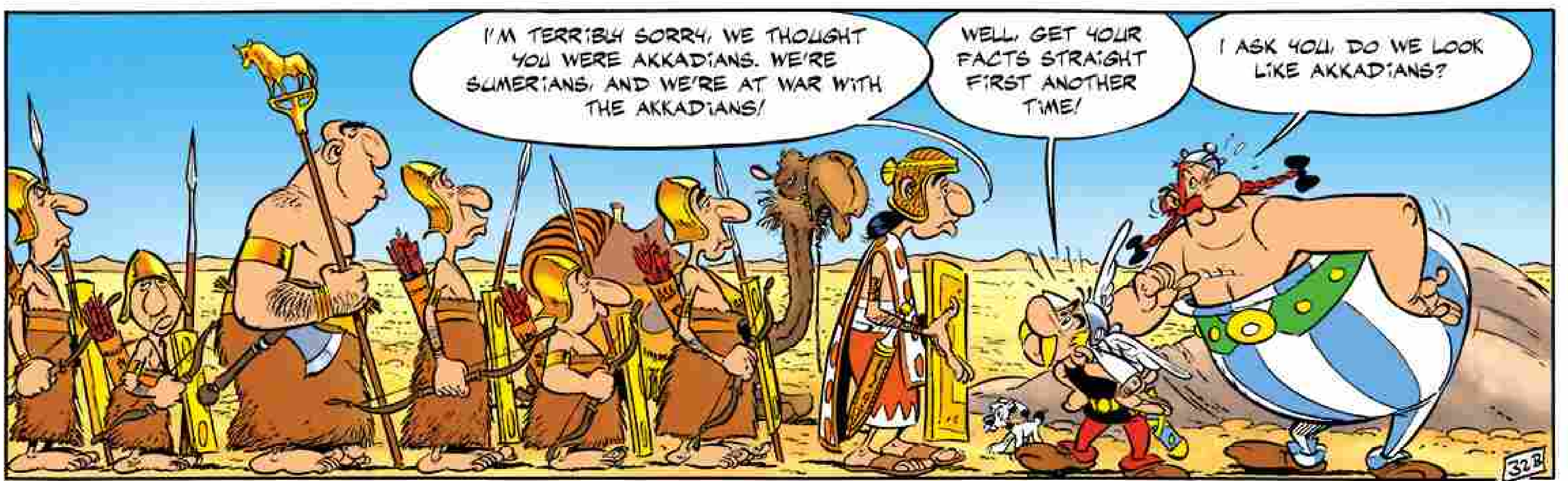
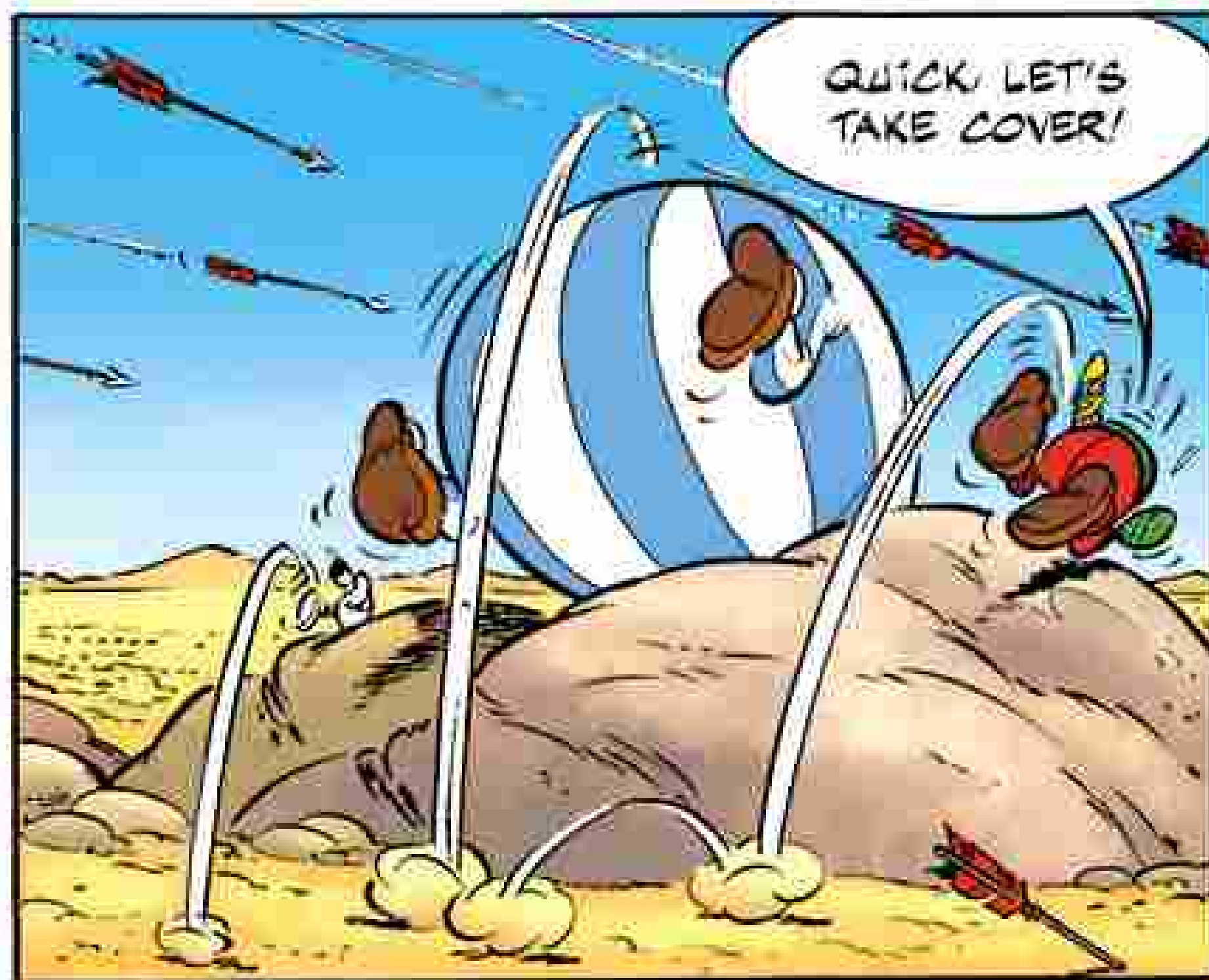
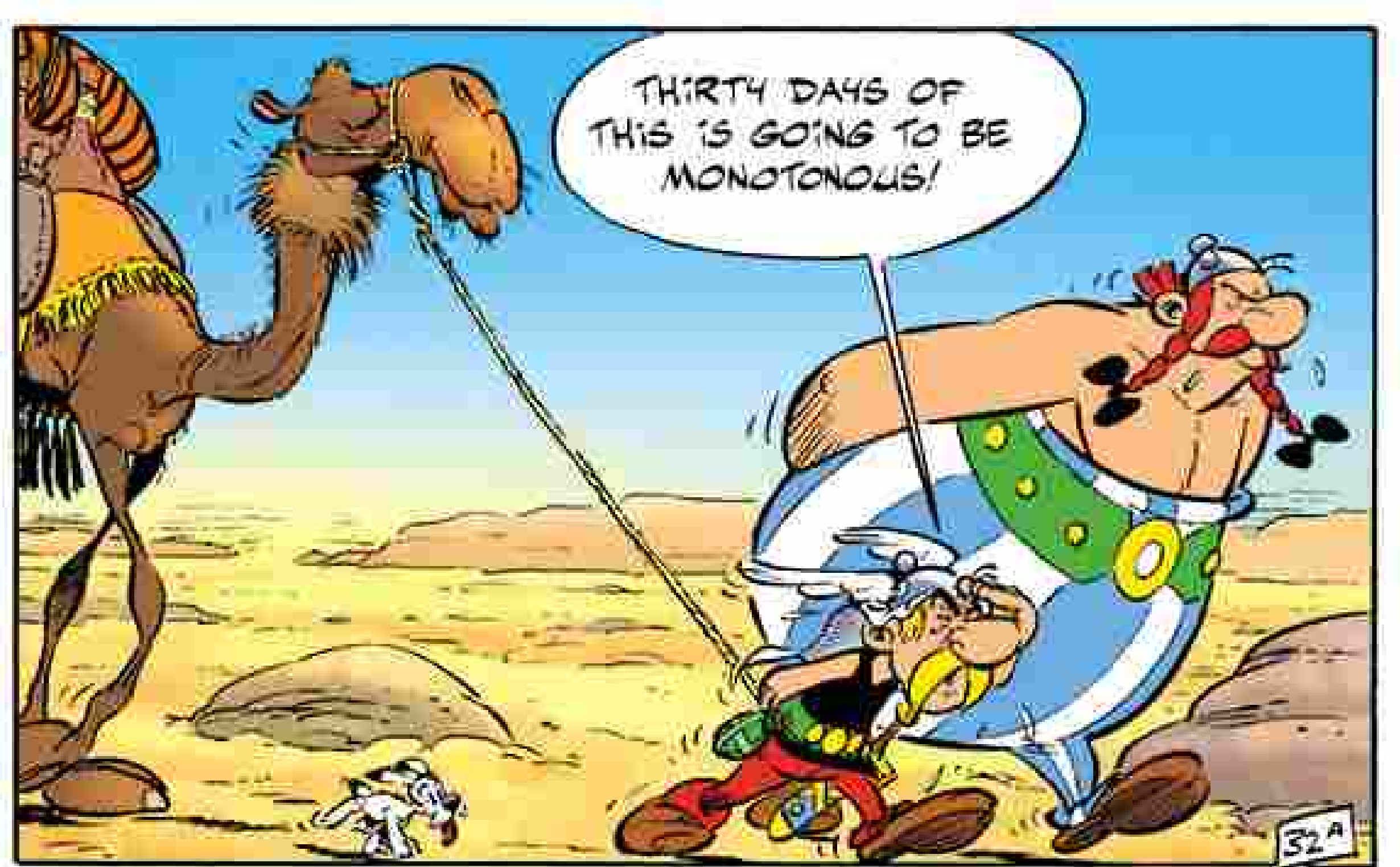
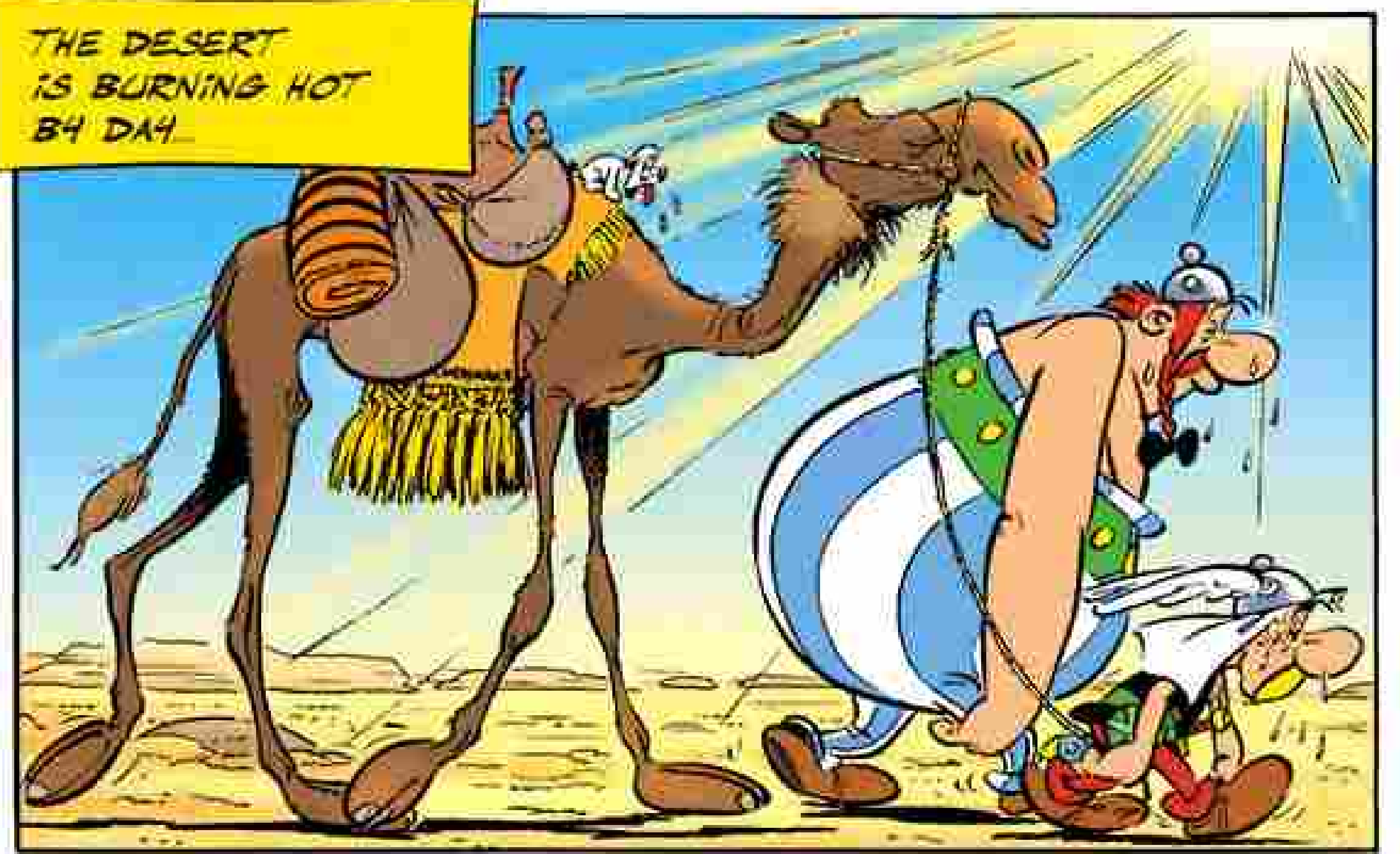
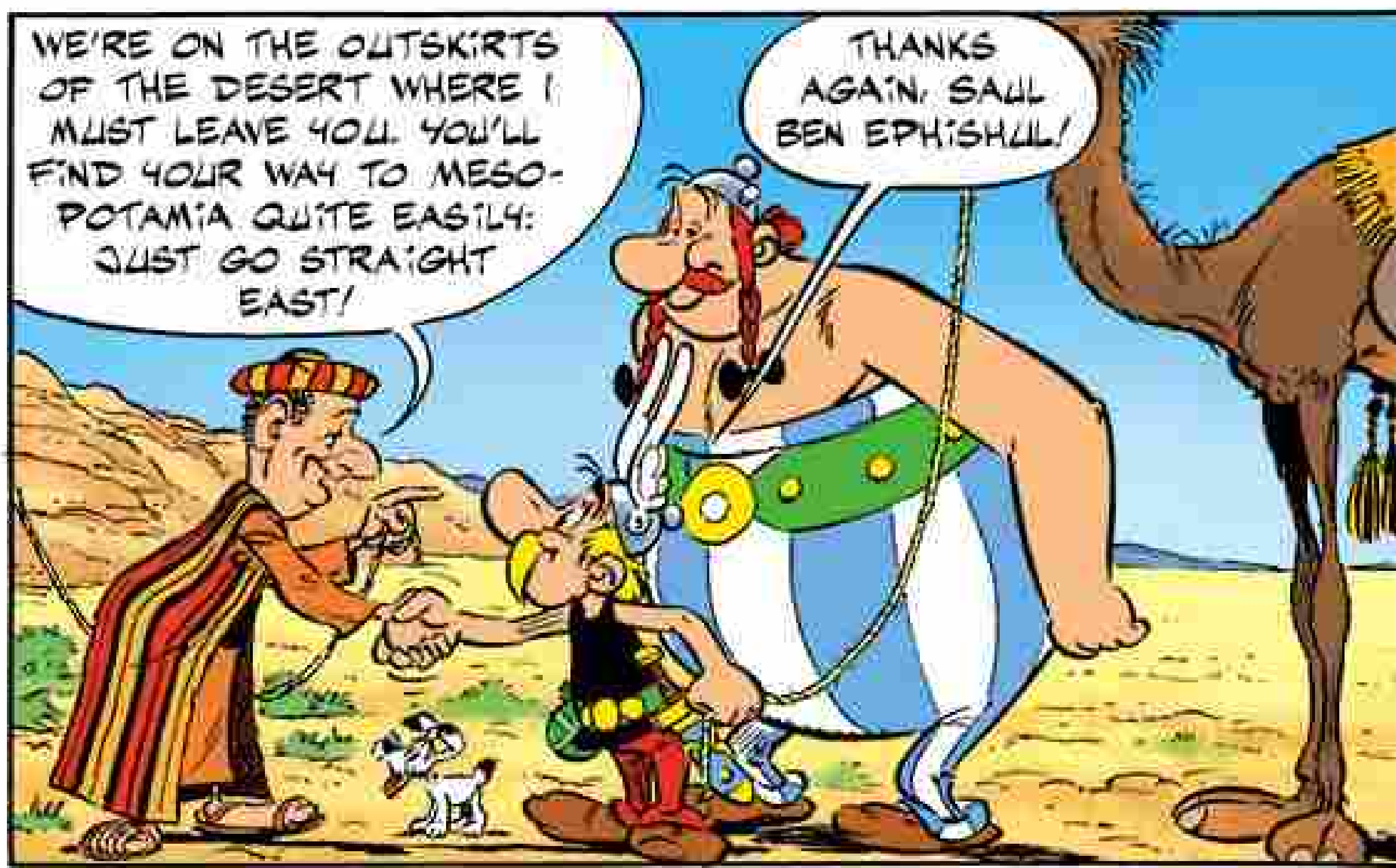


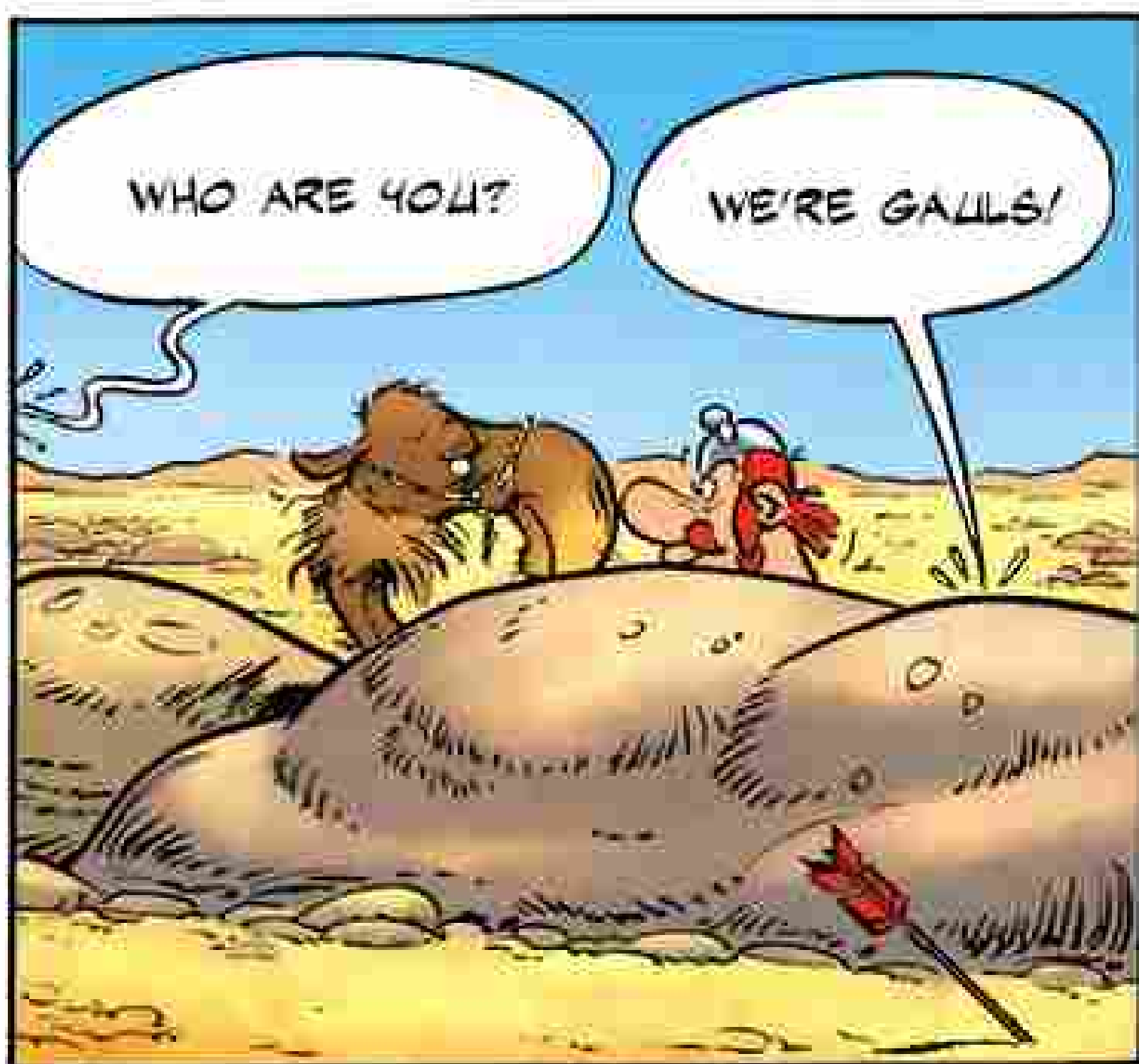
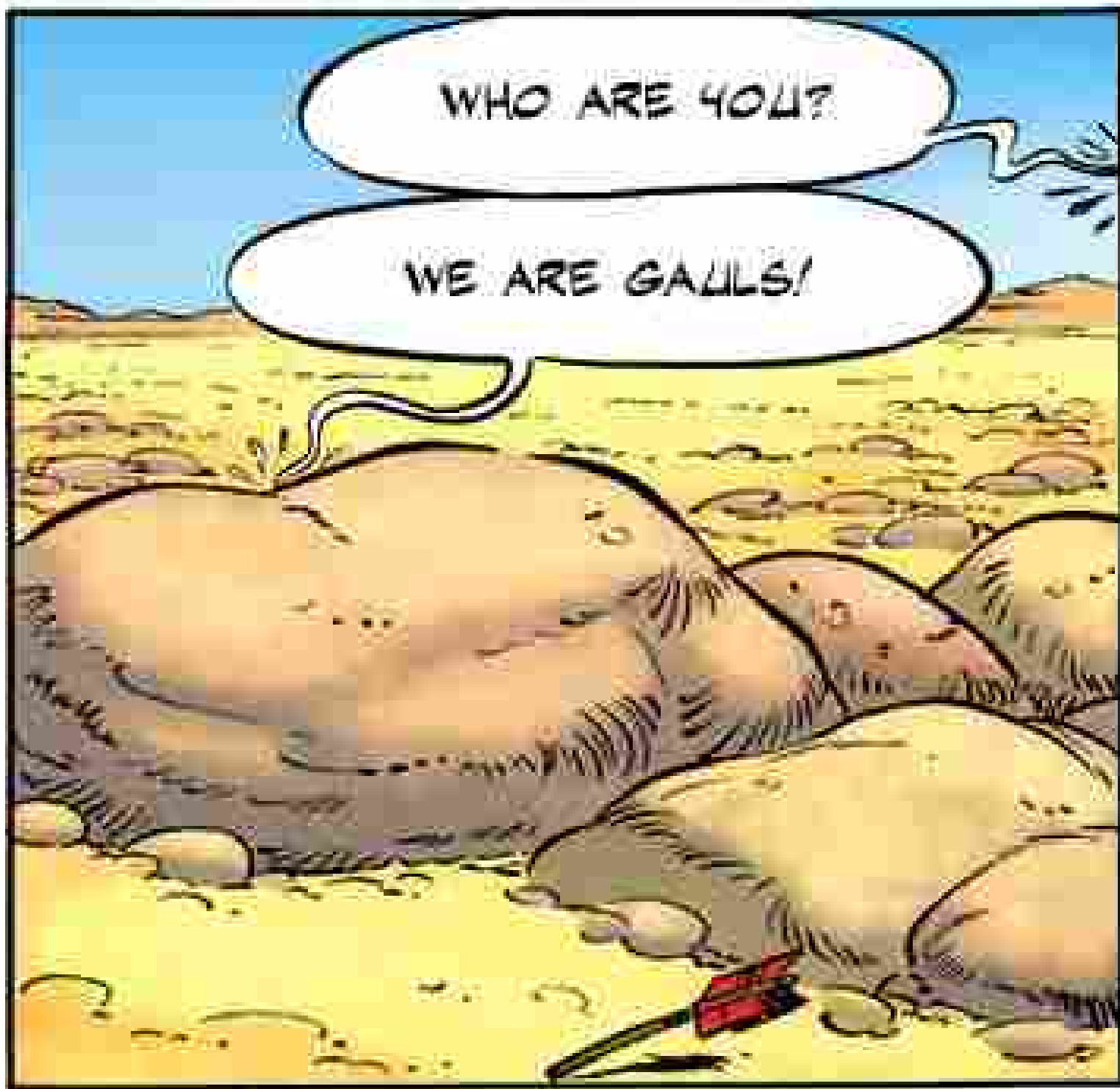
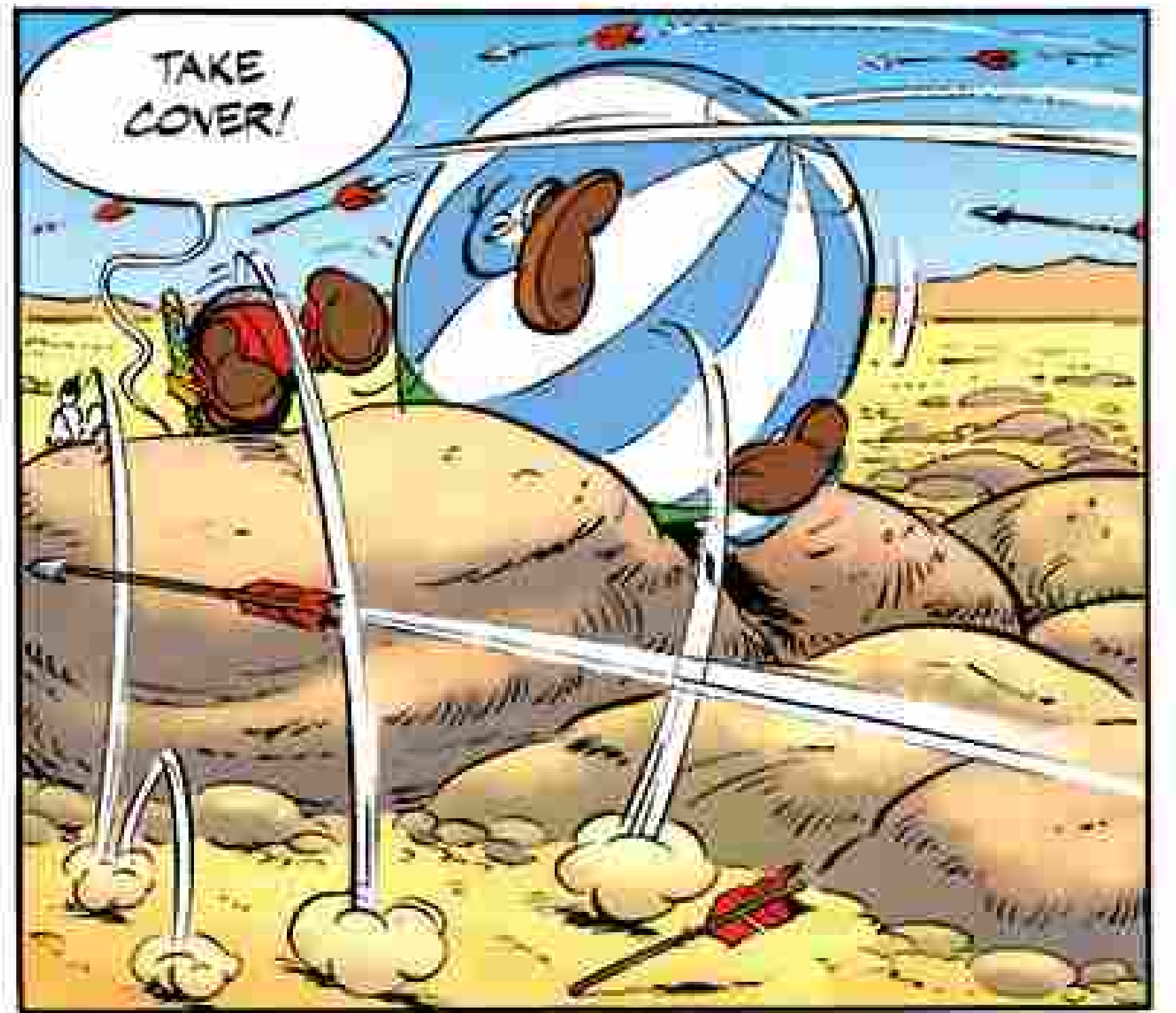
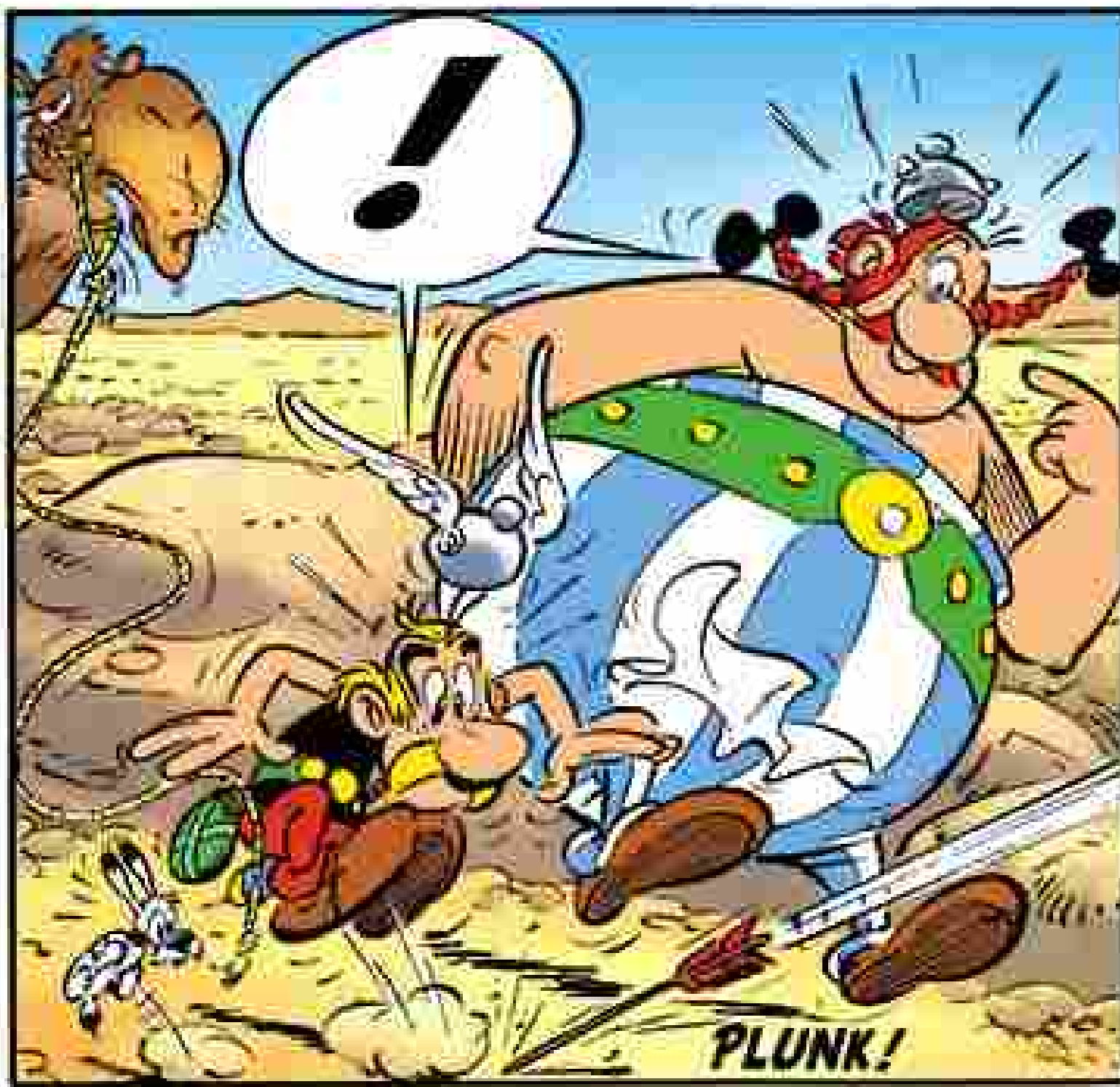
I WAS GOING TO WARN YOU: THE DEAD
SEA HAS A SALT CONTENT SIX TIMES
HIGHER THAN THAT OF OTHER SEAS, AND
ITS DENSITY IS SUCH THAT THE HUMAN
BODY JUST FLOATS ON TOP!

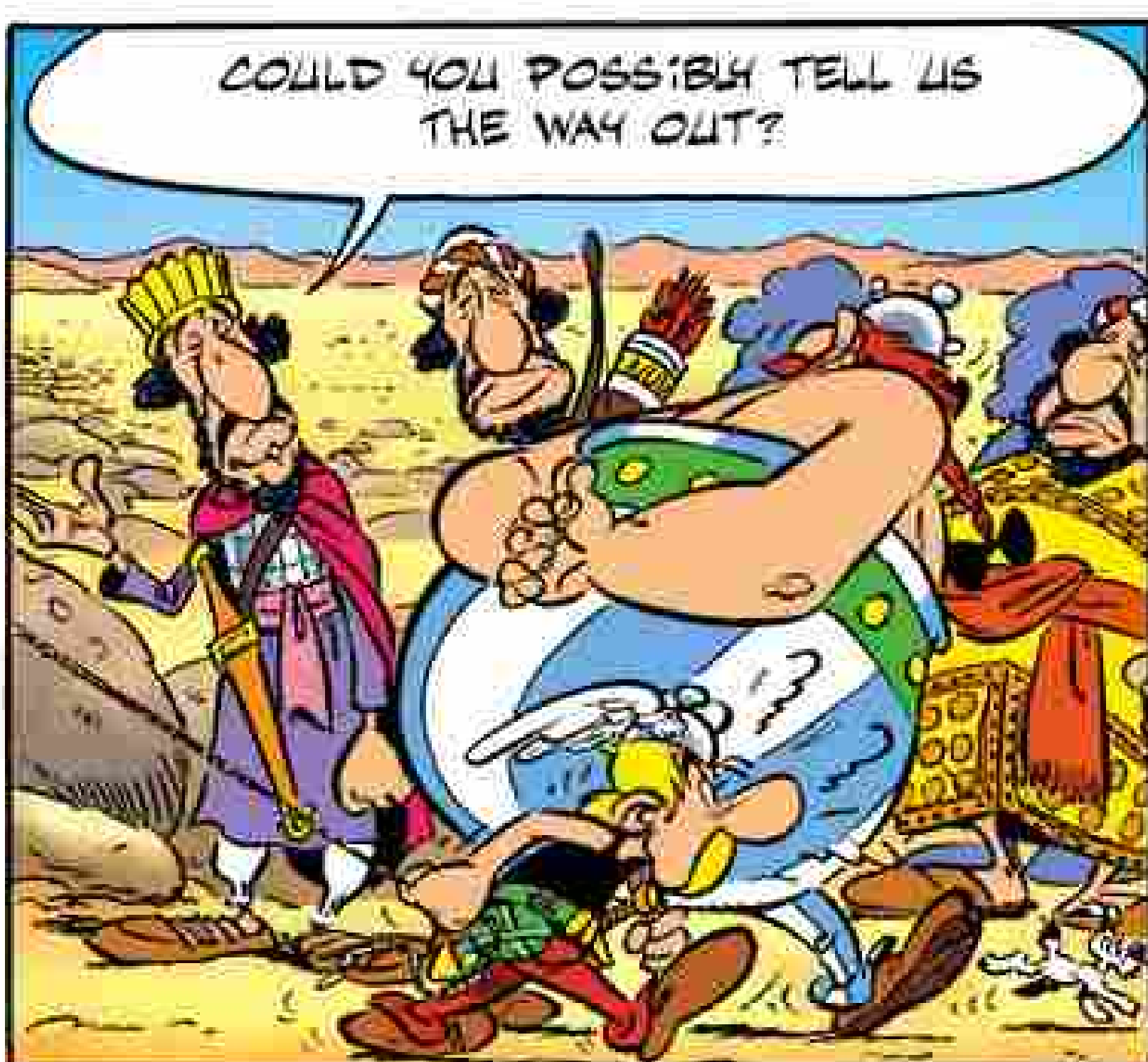
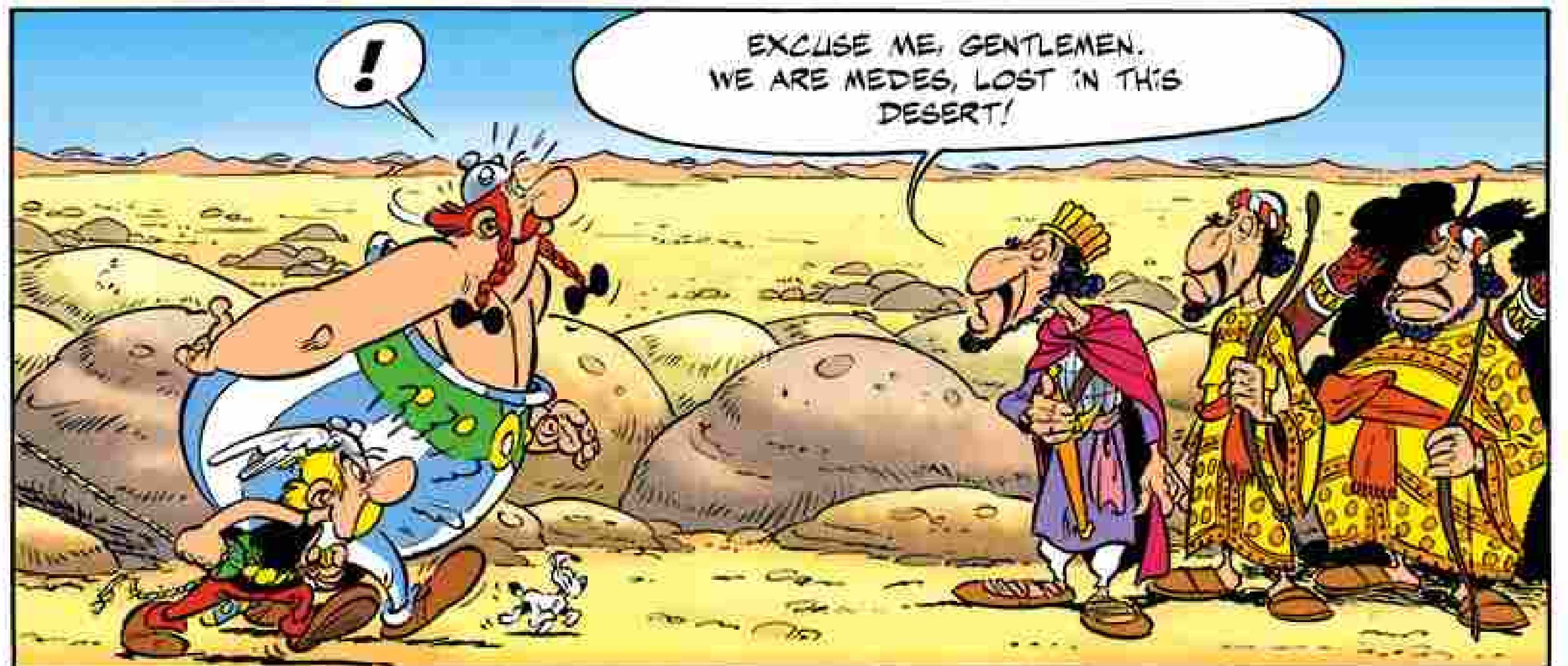
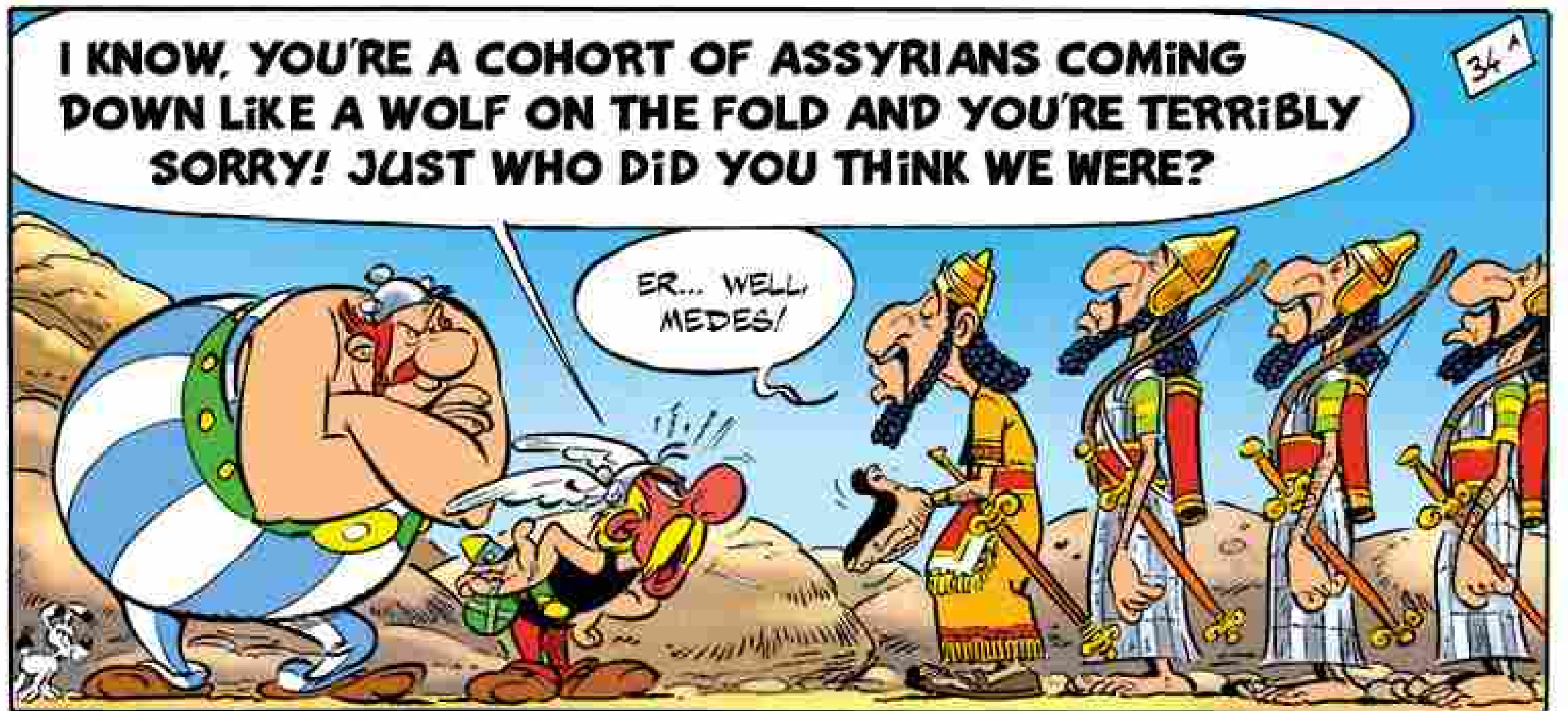
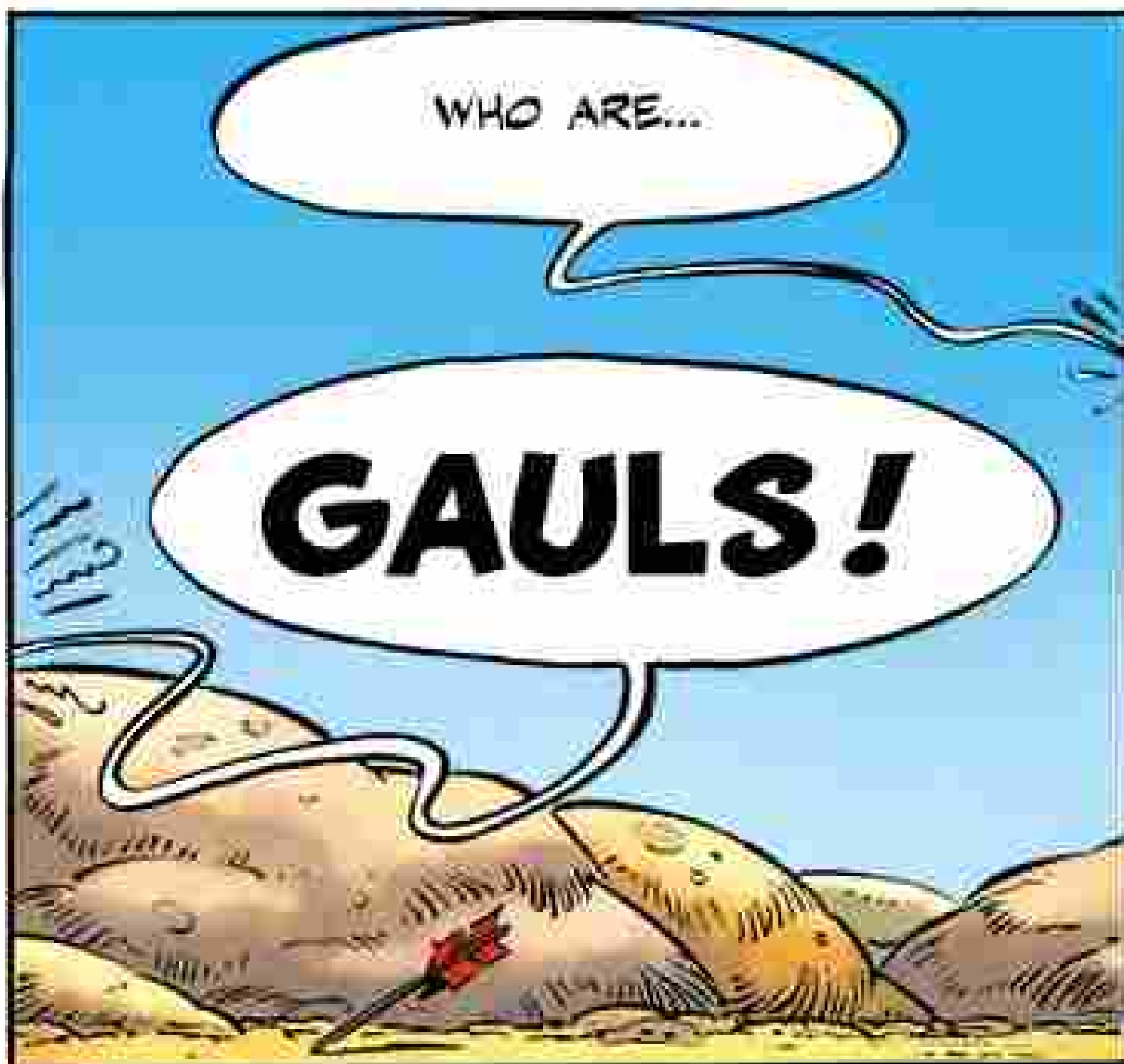
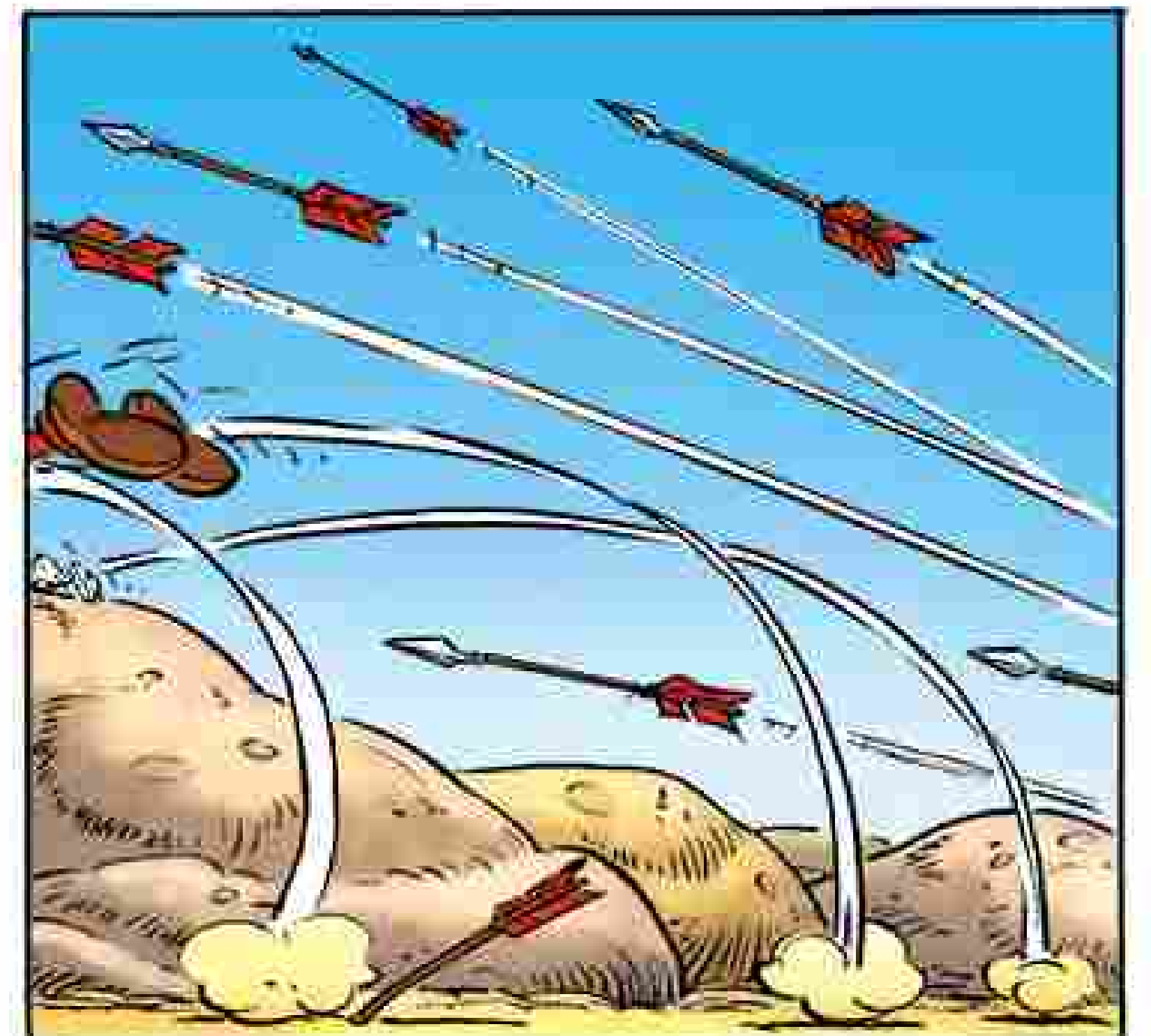
HOHOHO!
HAHA!

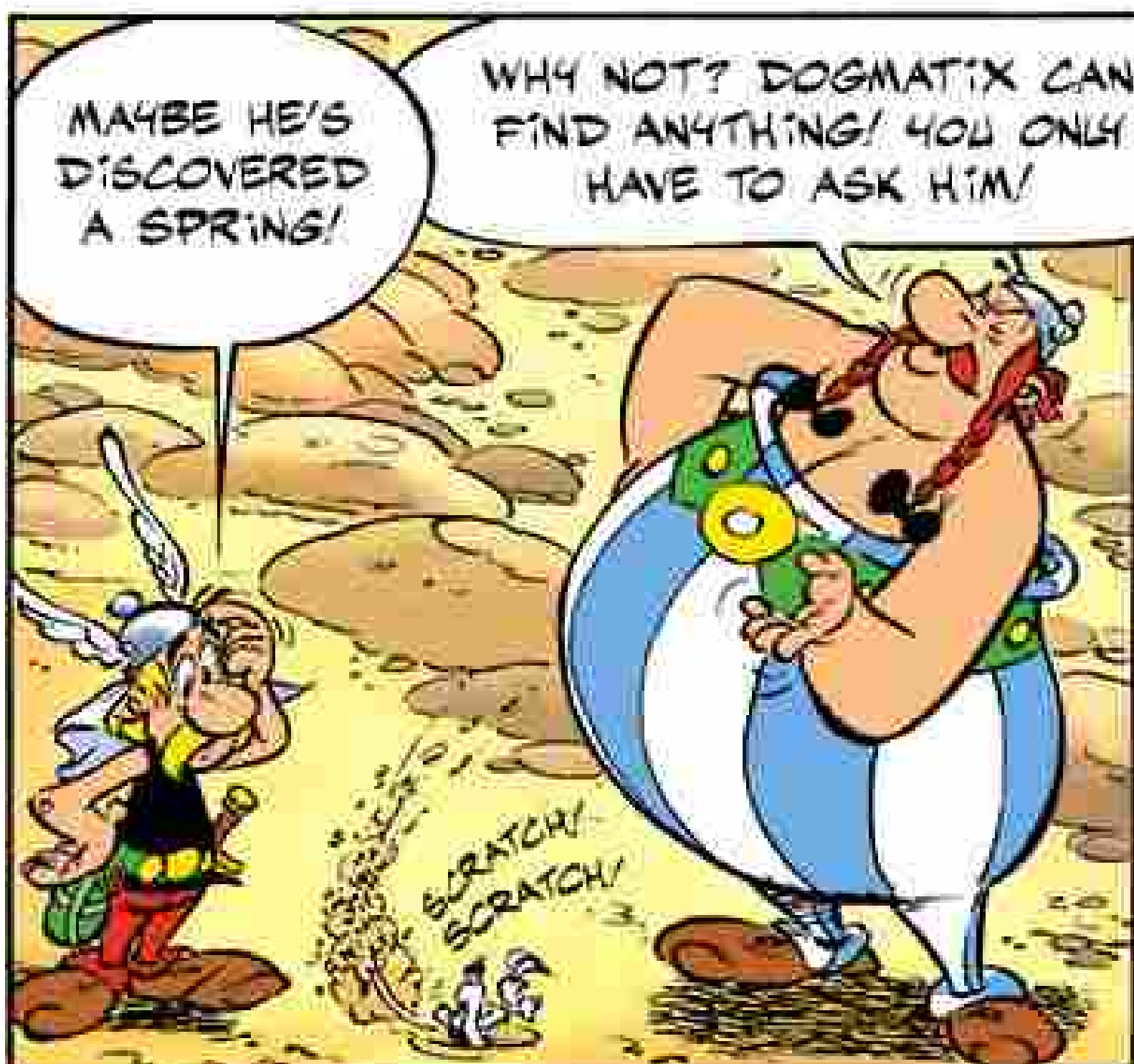
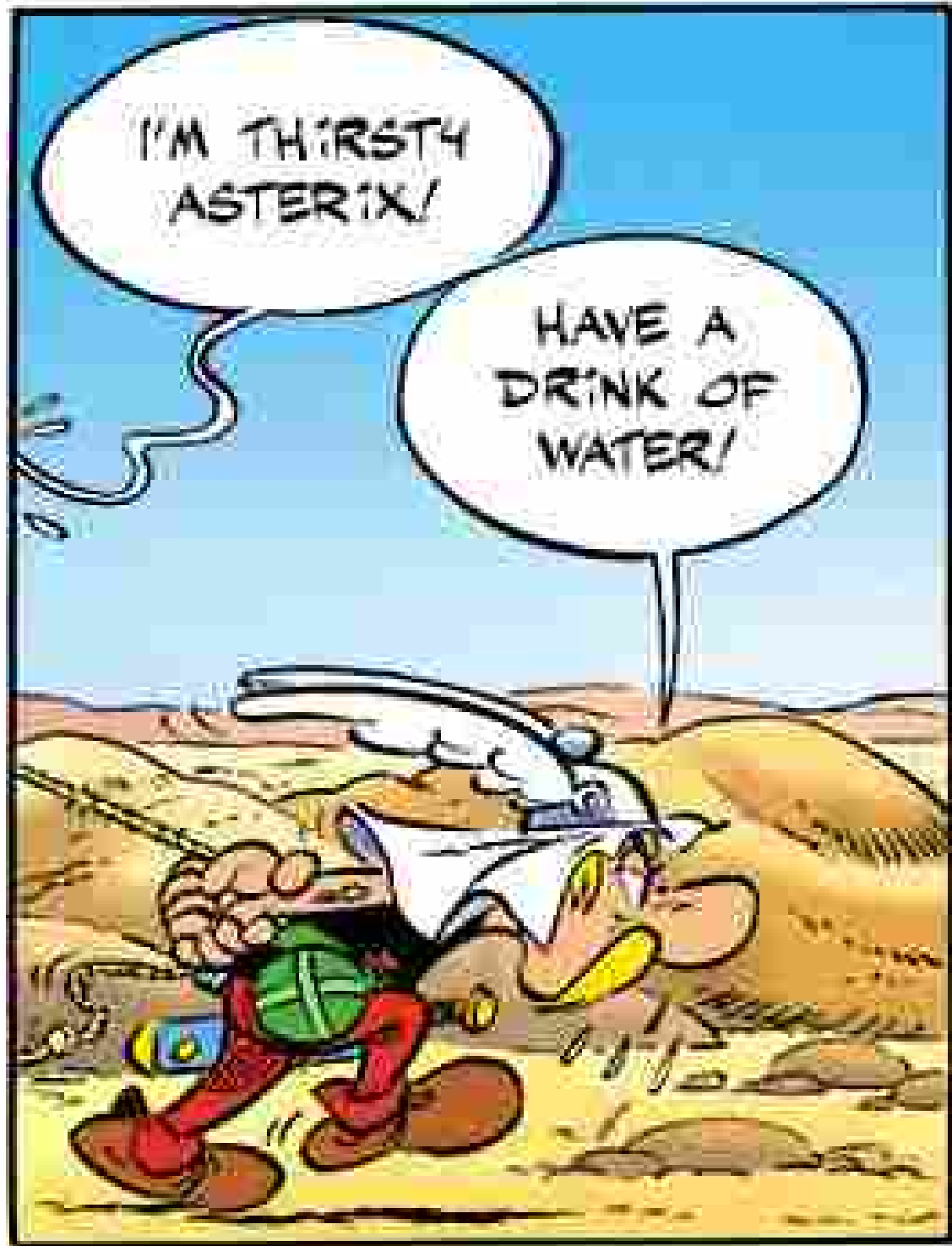
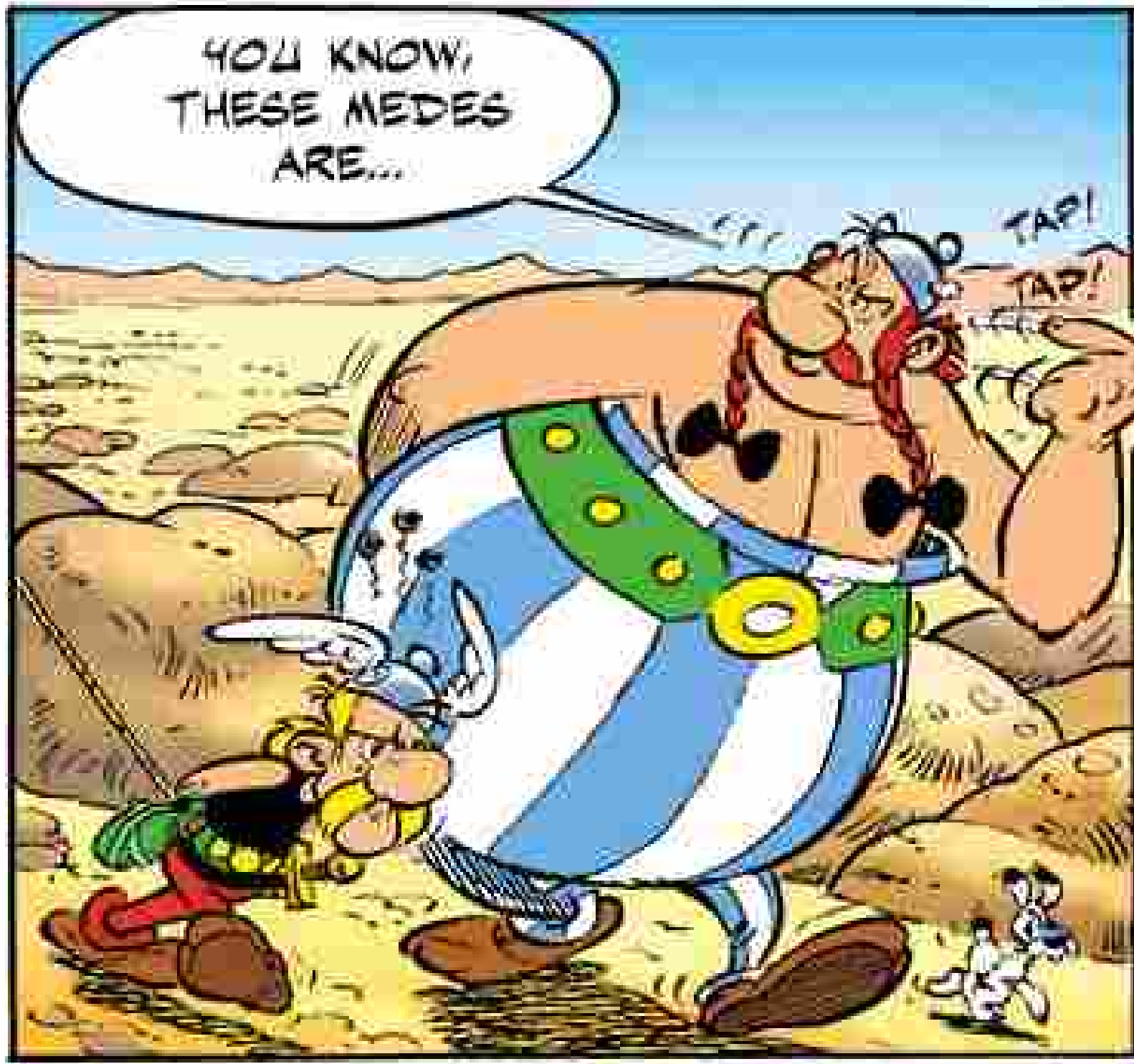
ARE!
ARE!
ARE!

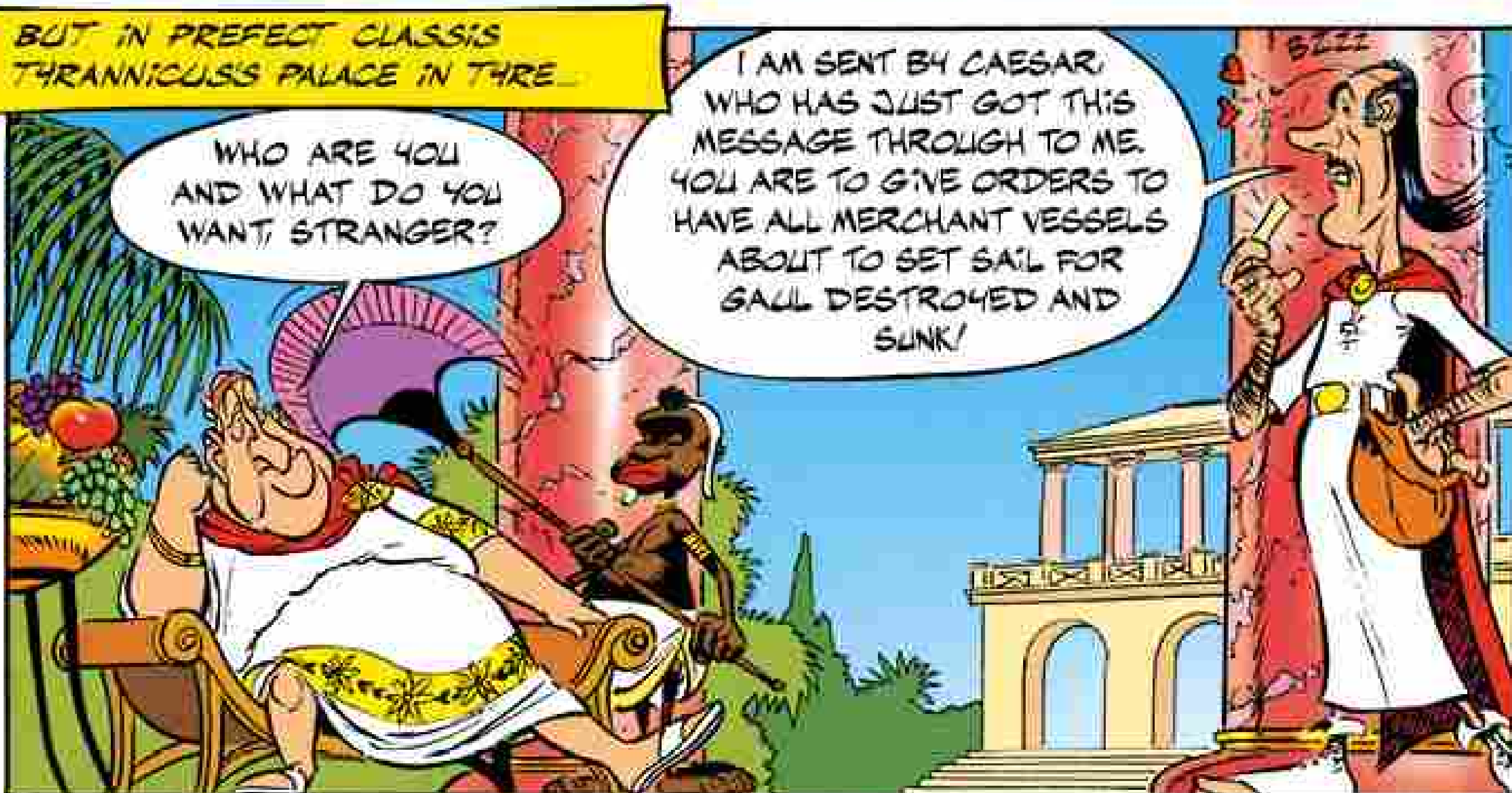
31B

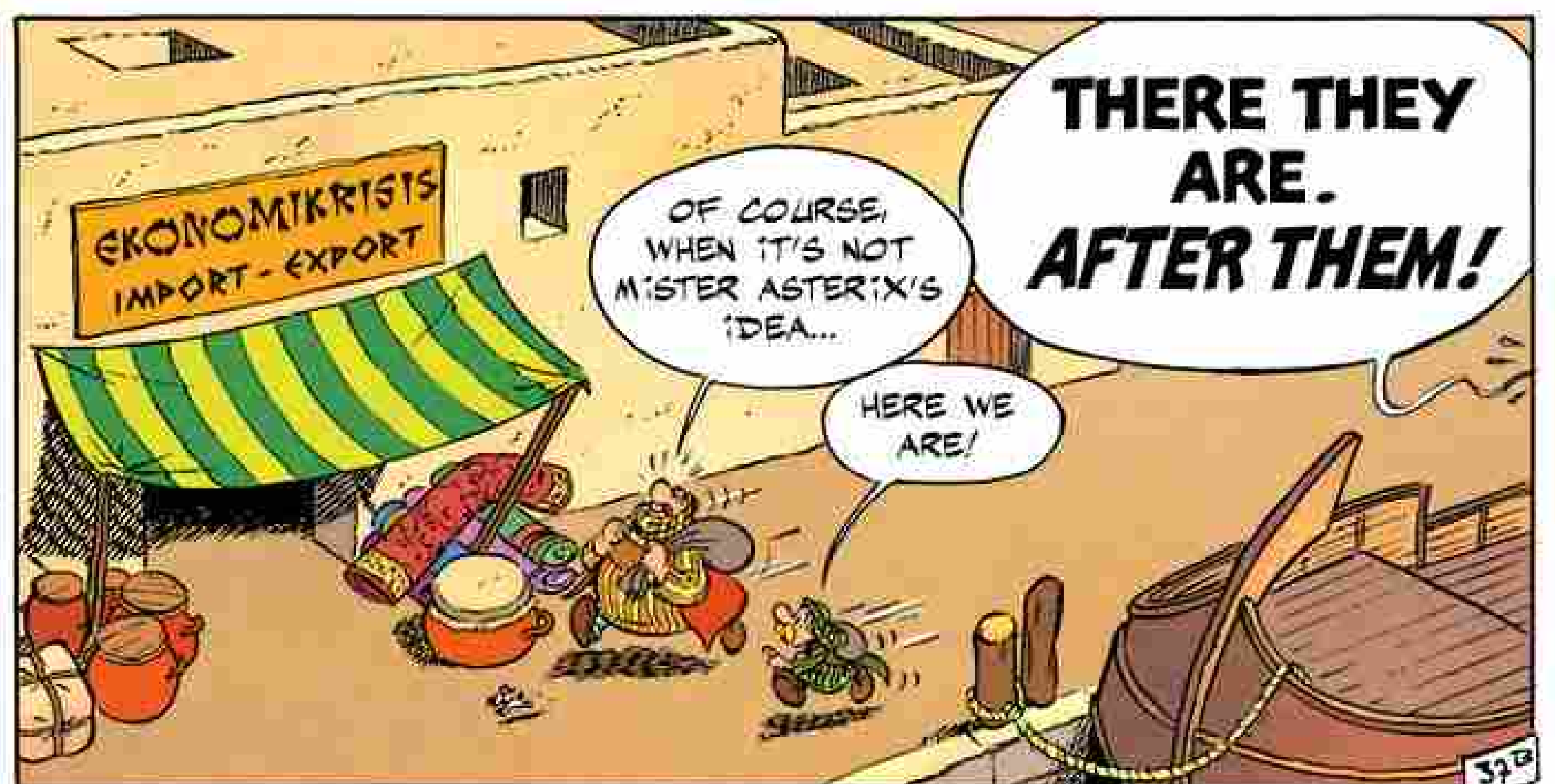
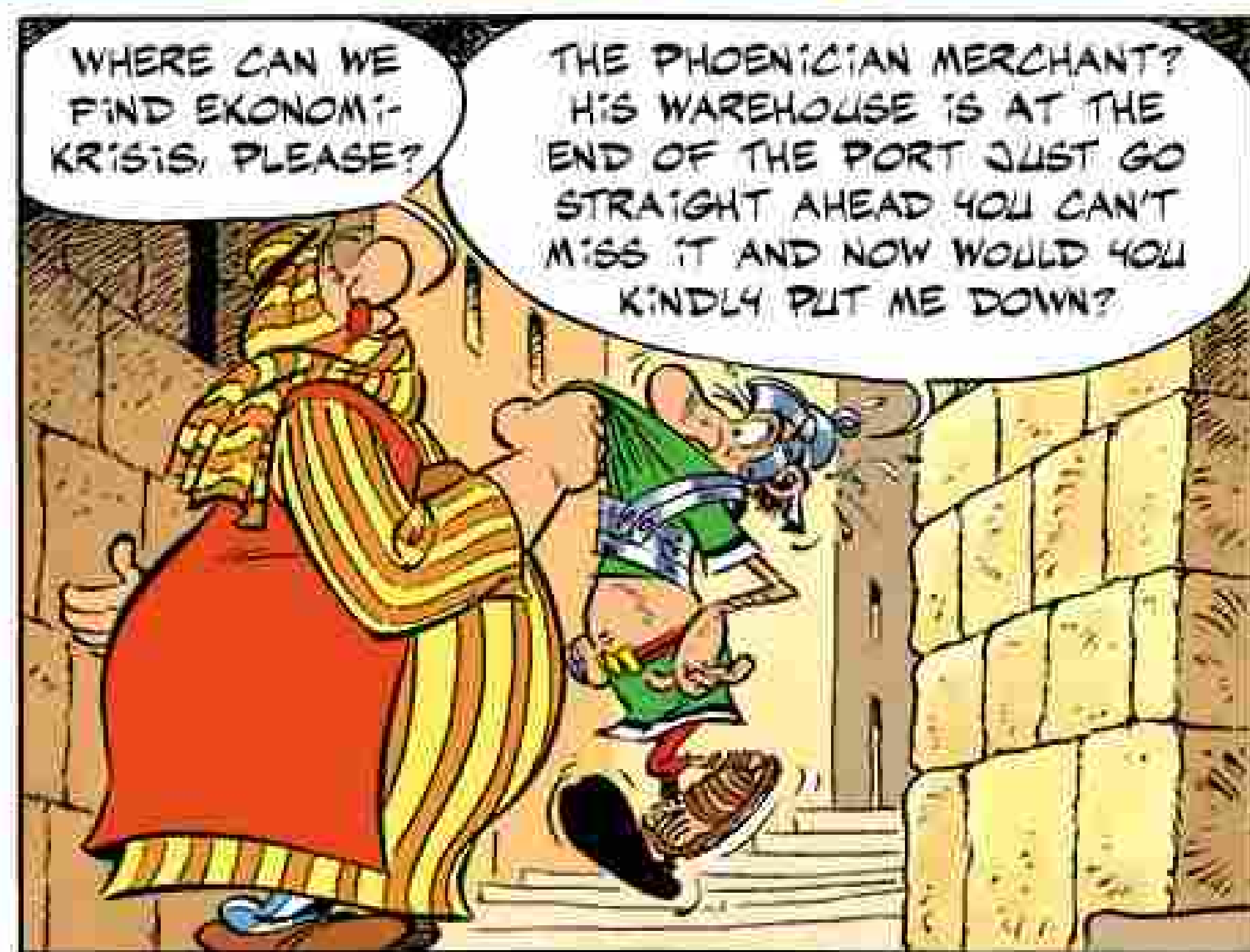
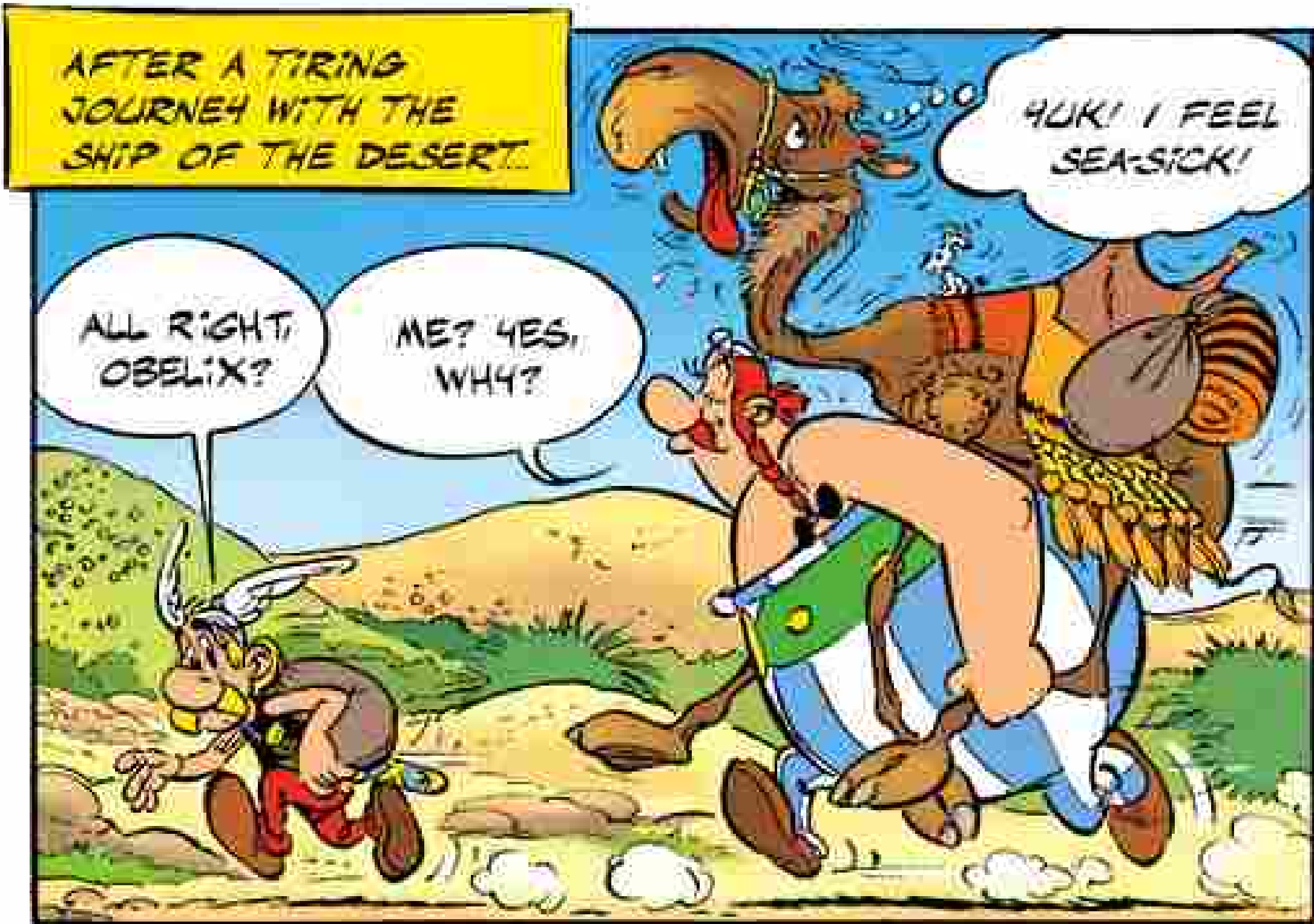


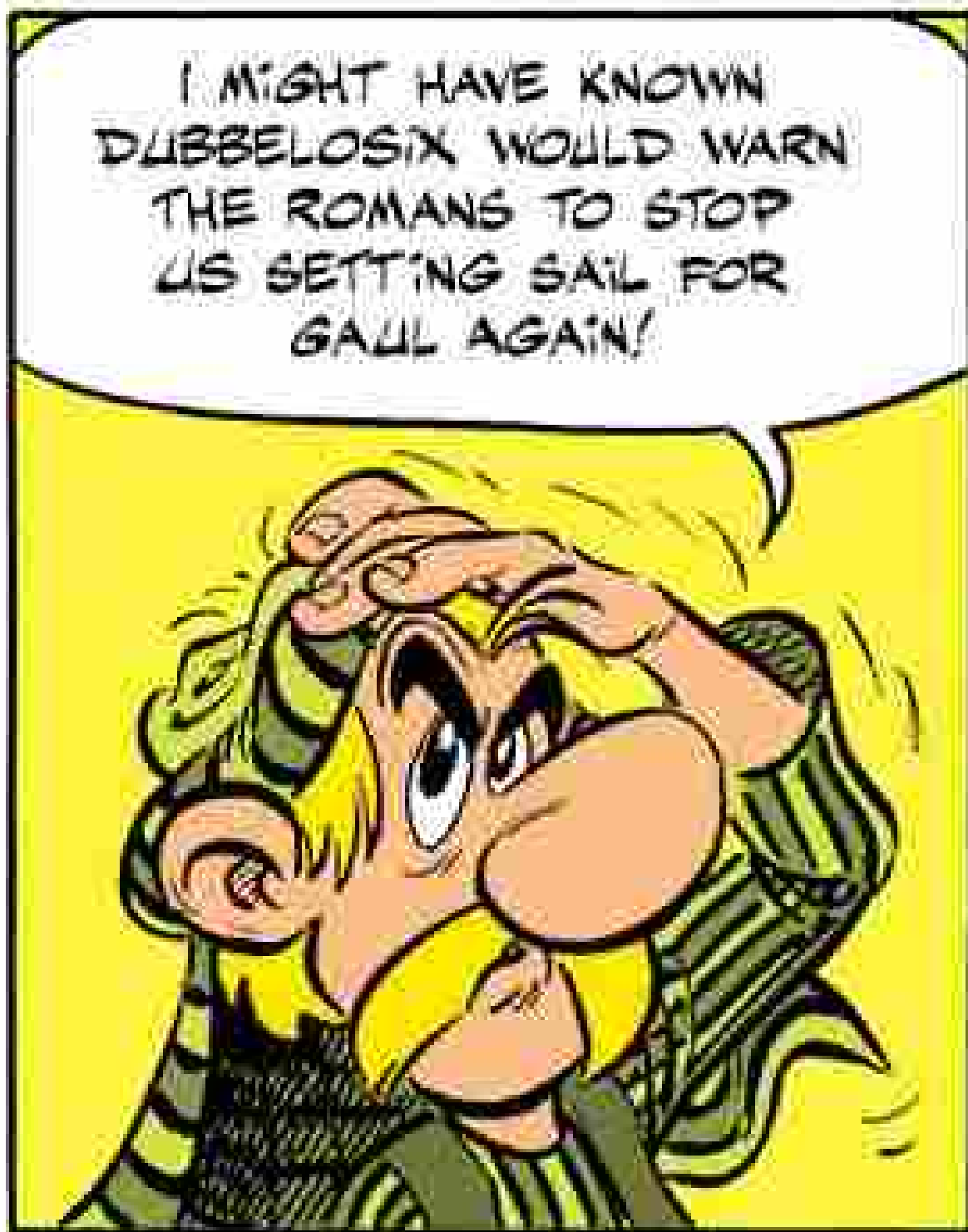
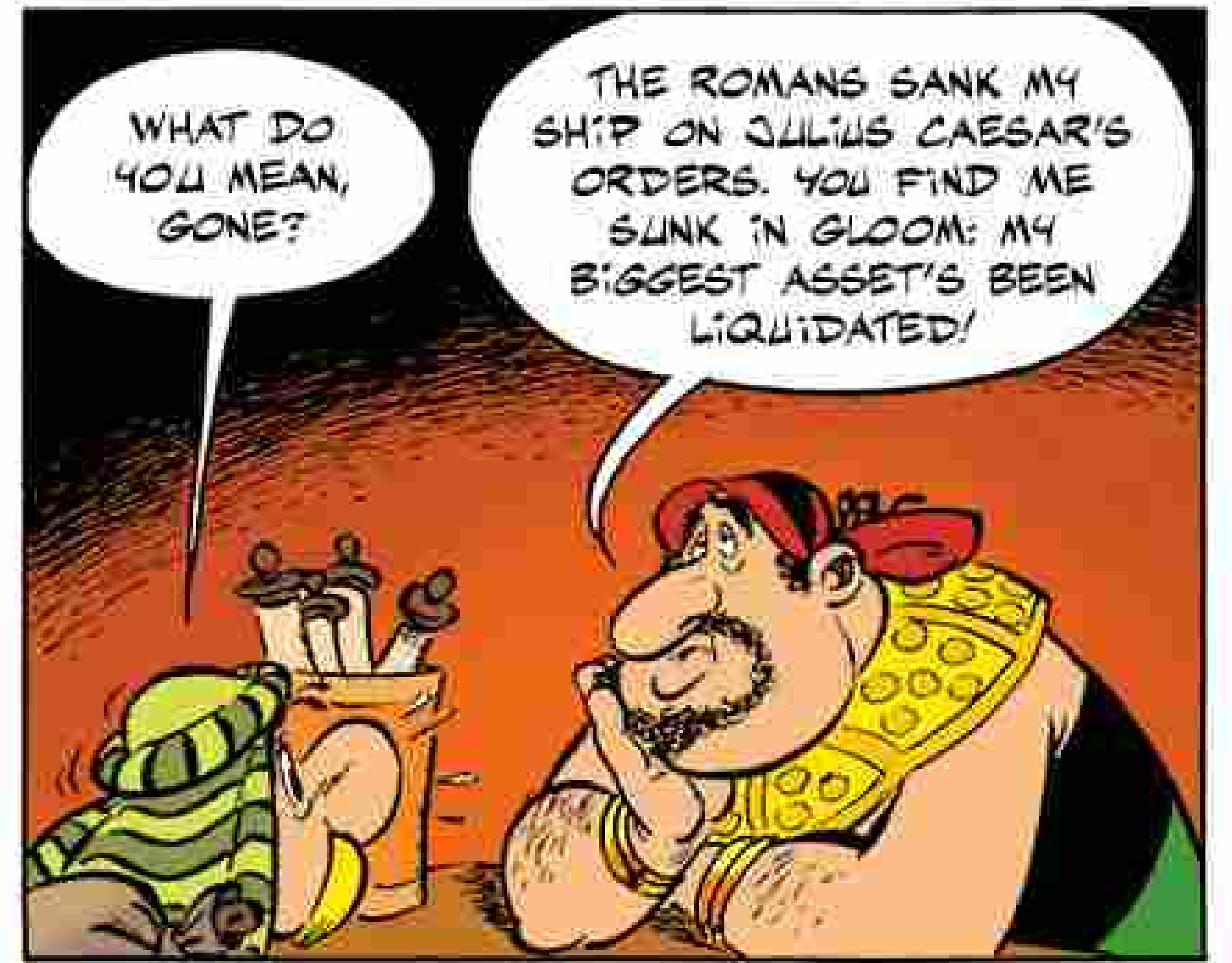




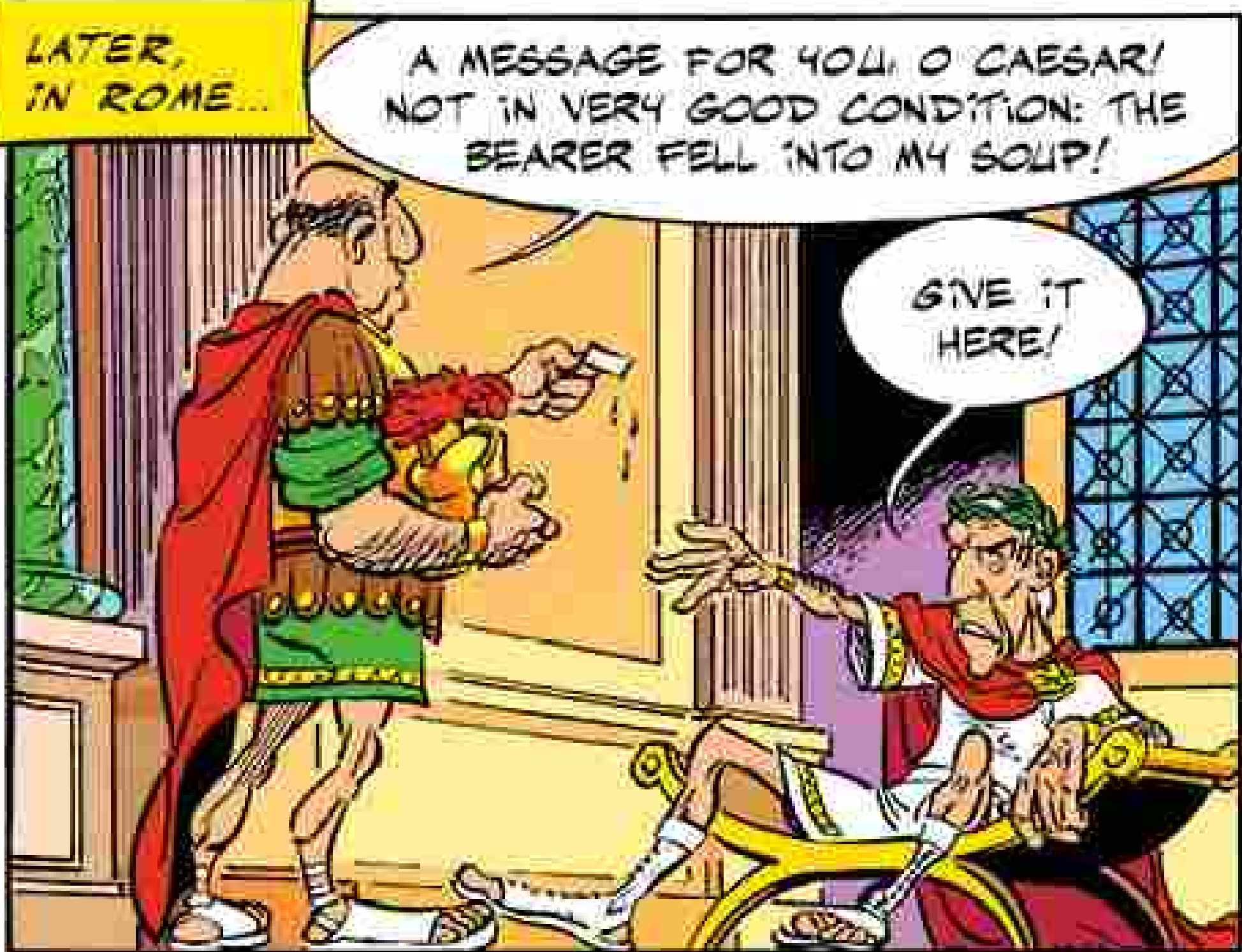
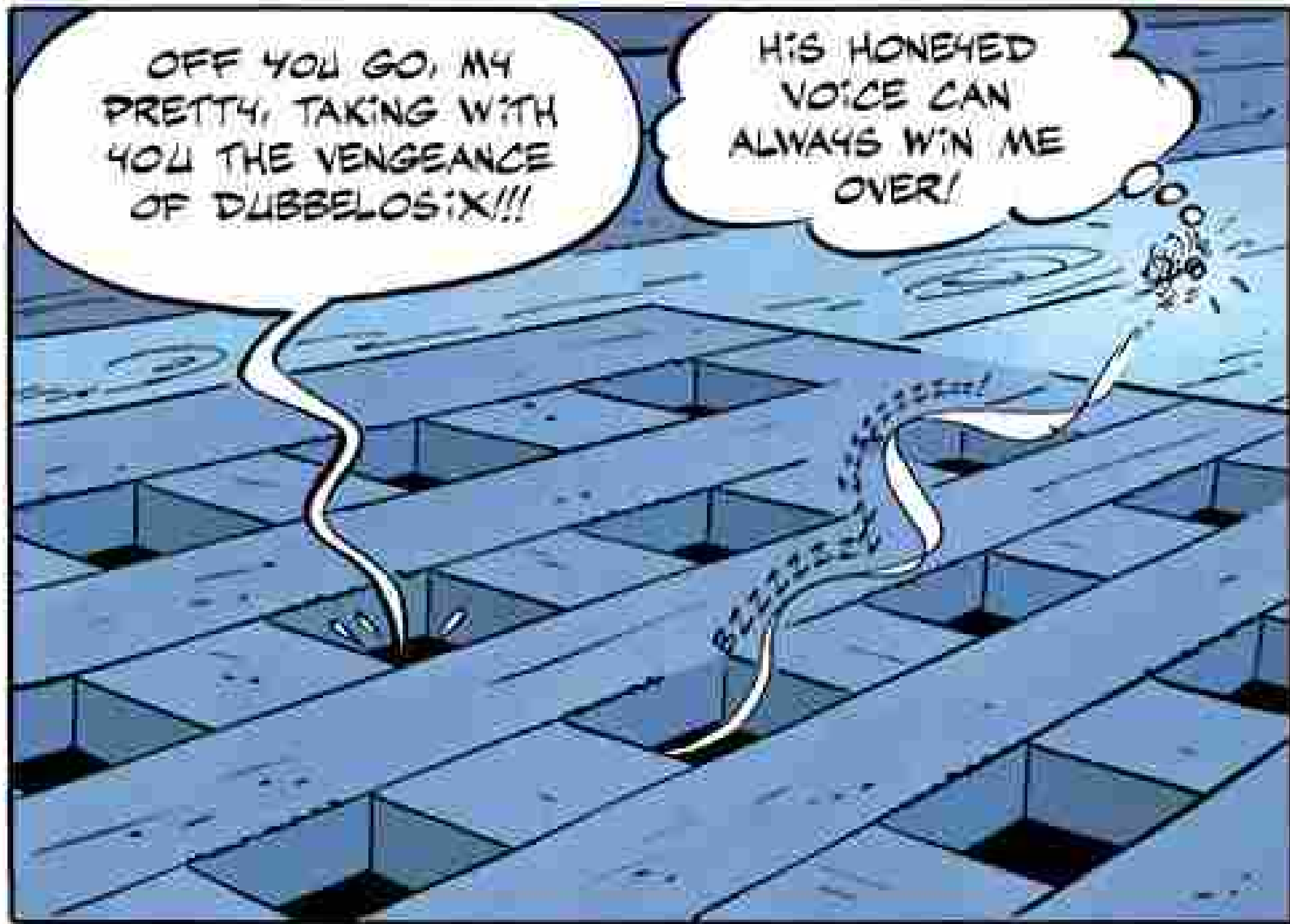
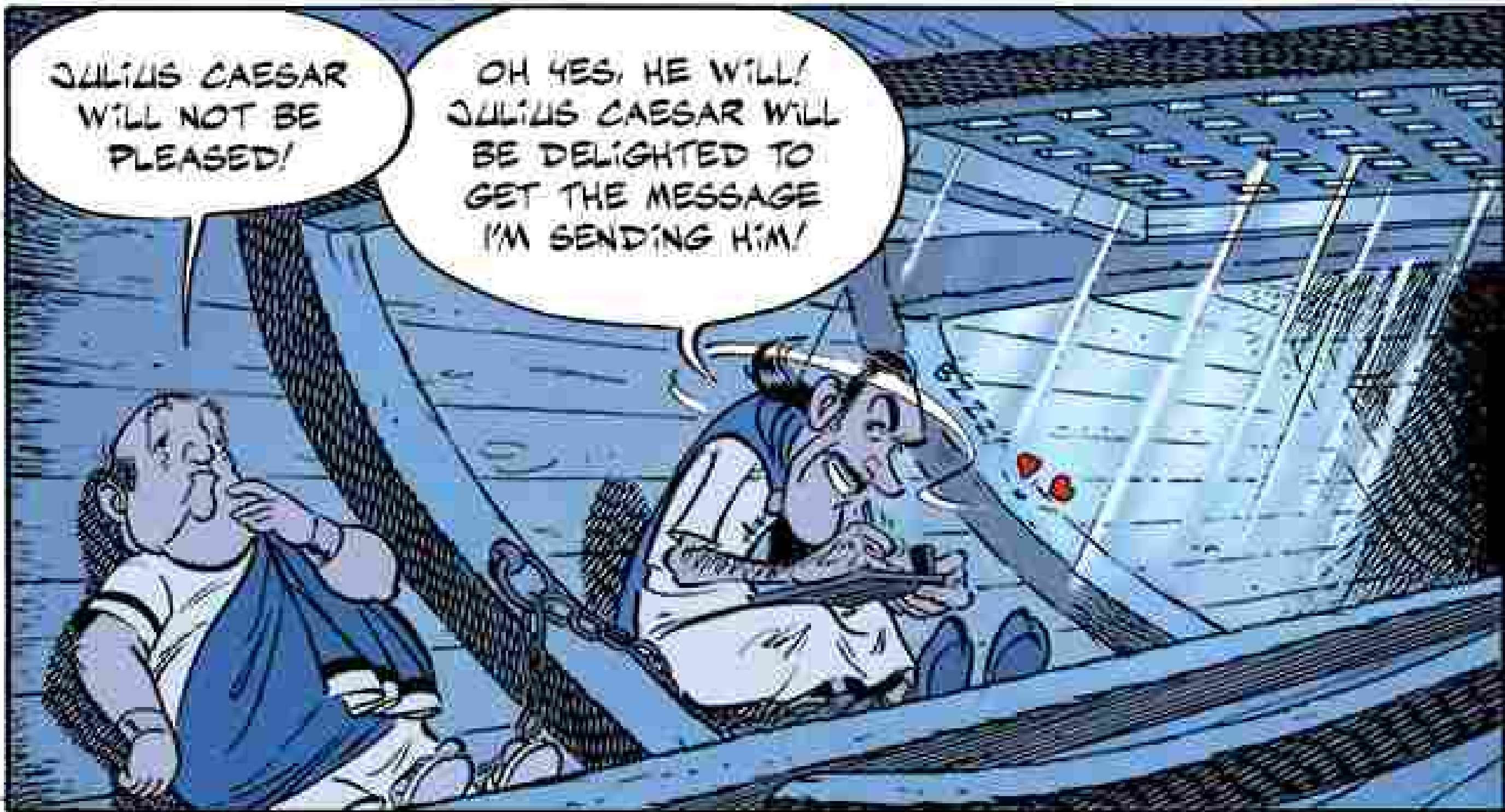




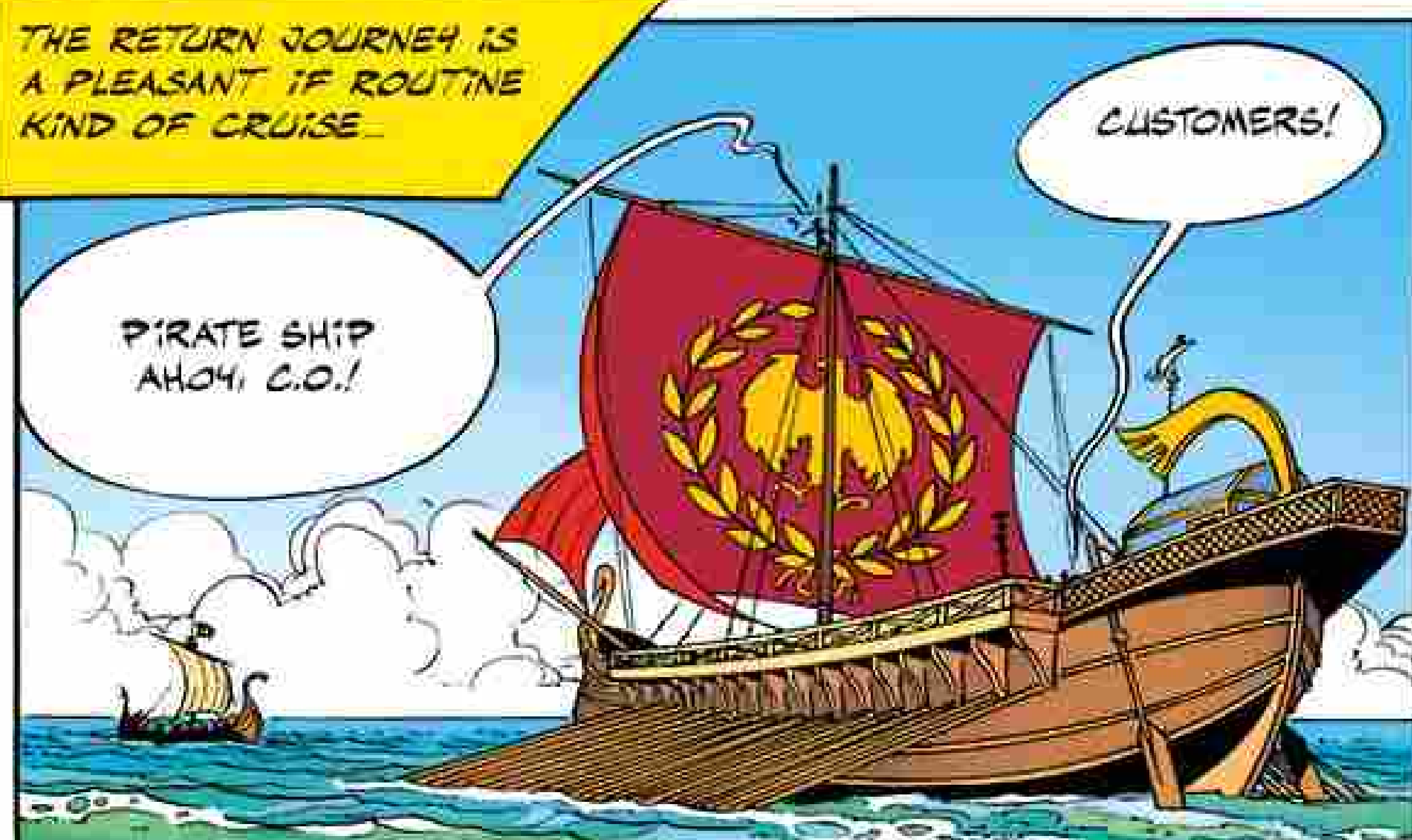




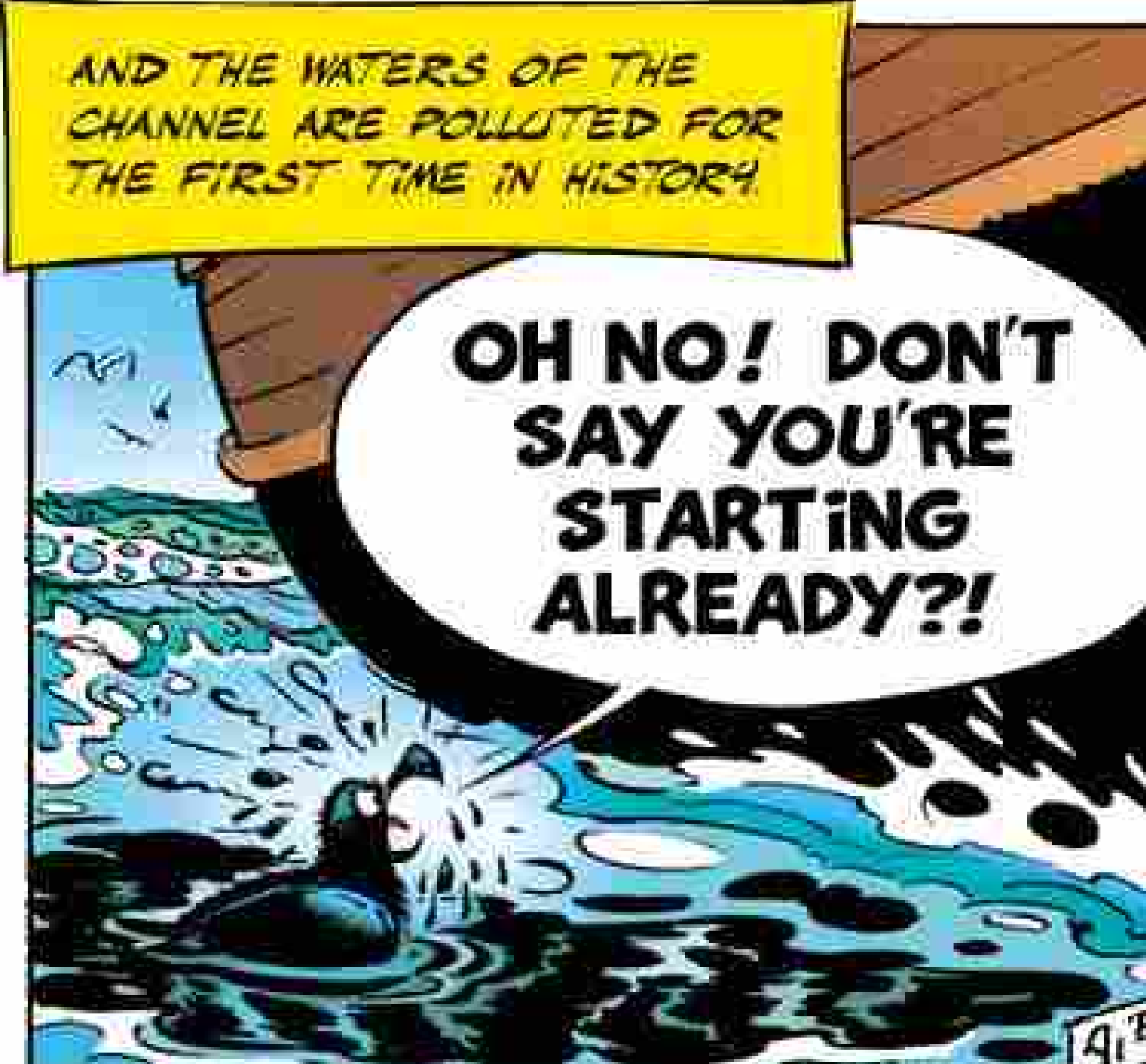
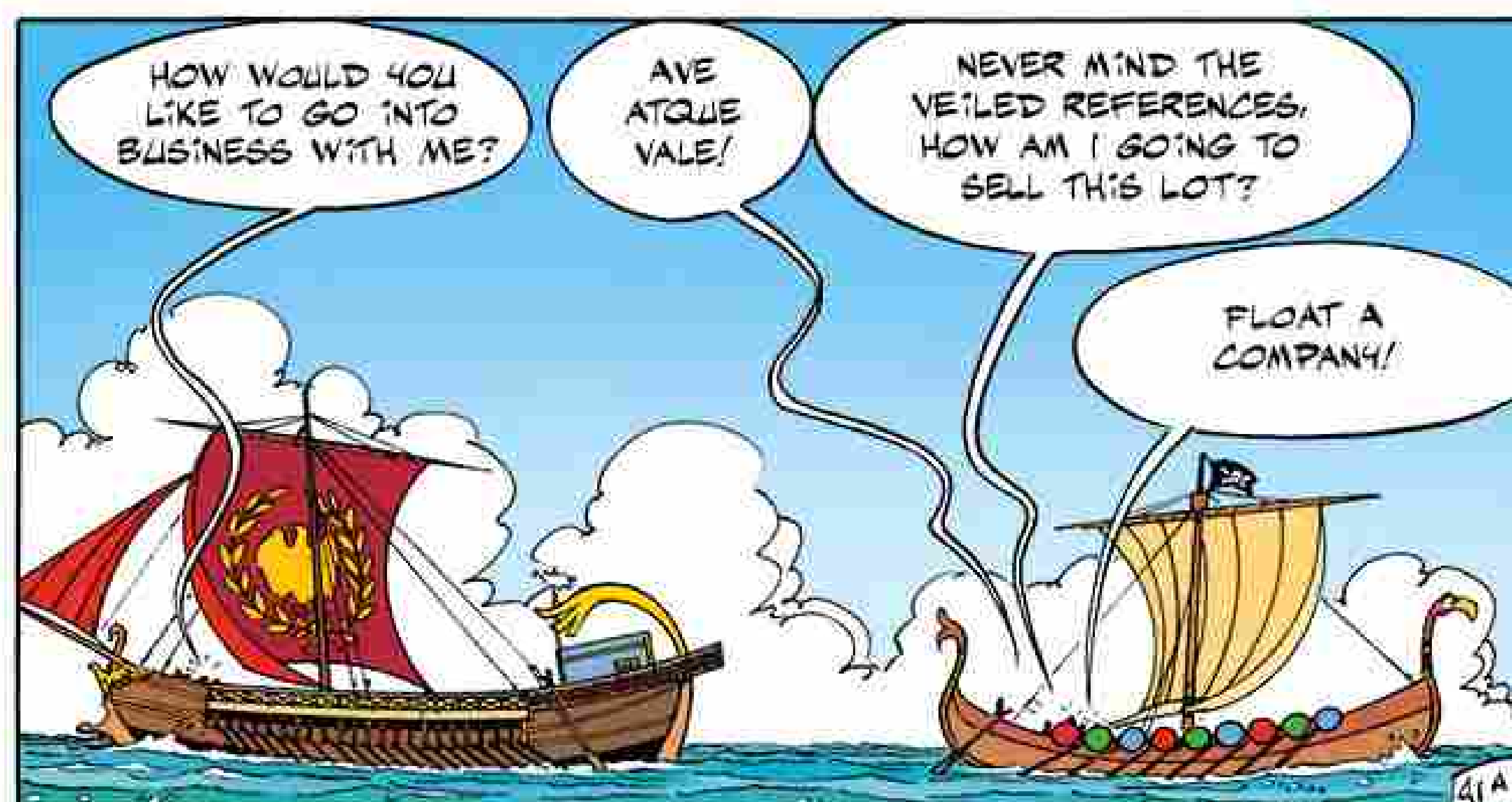


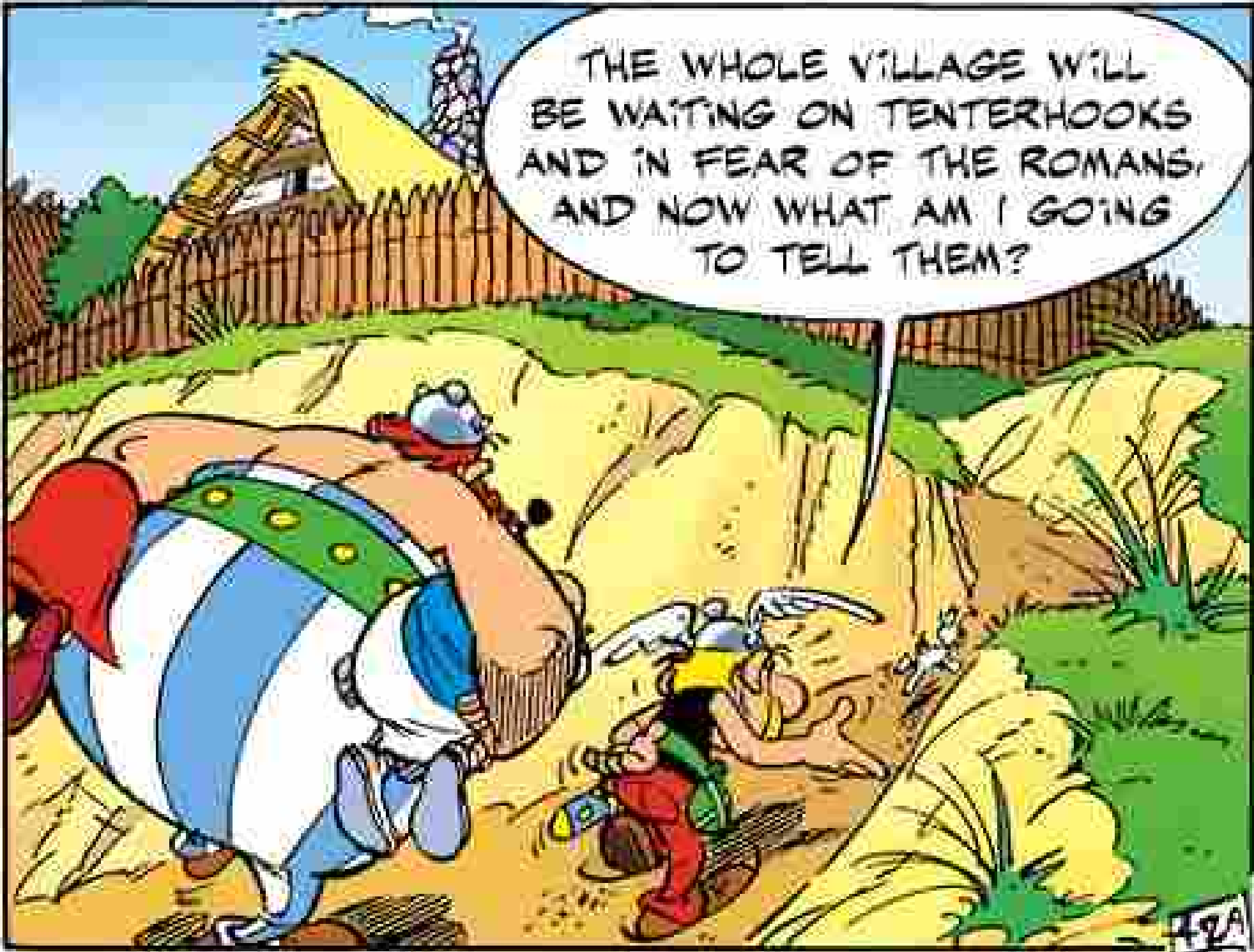


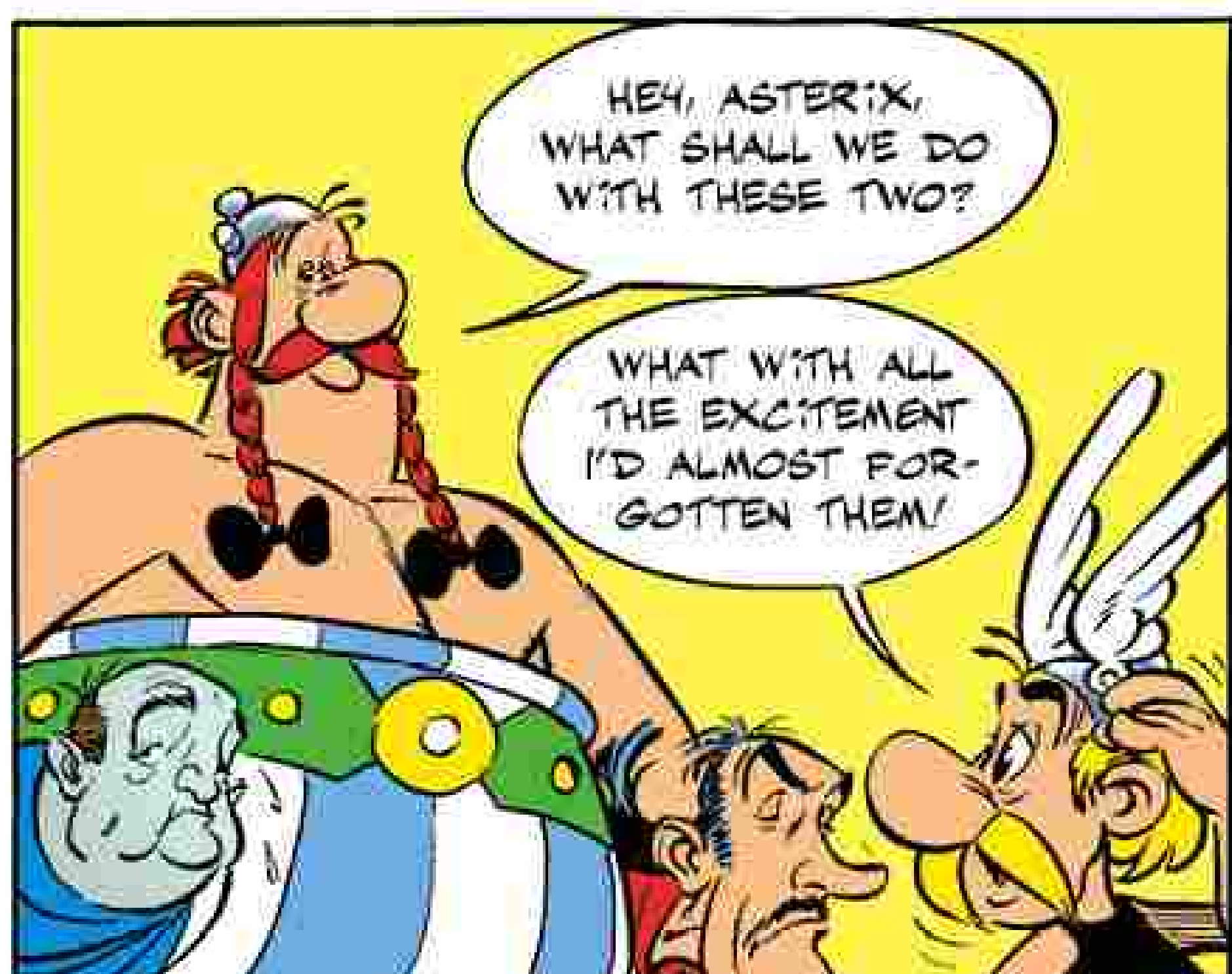
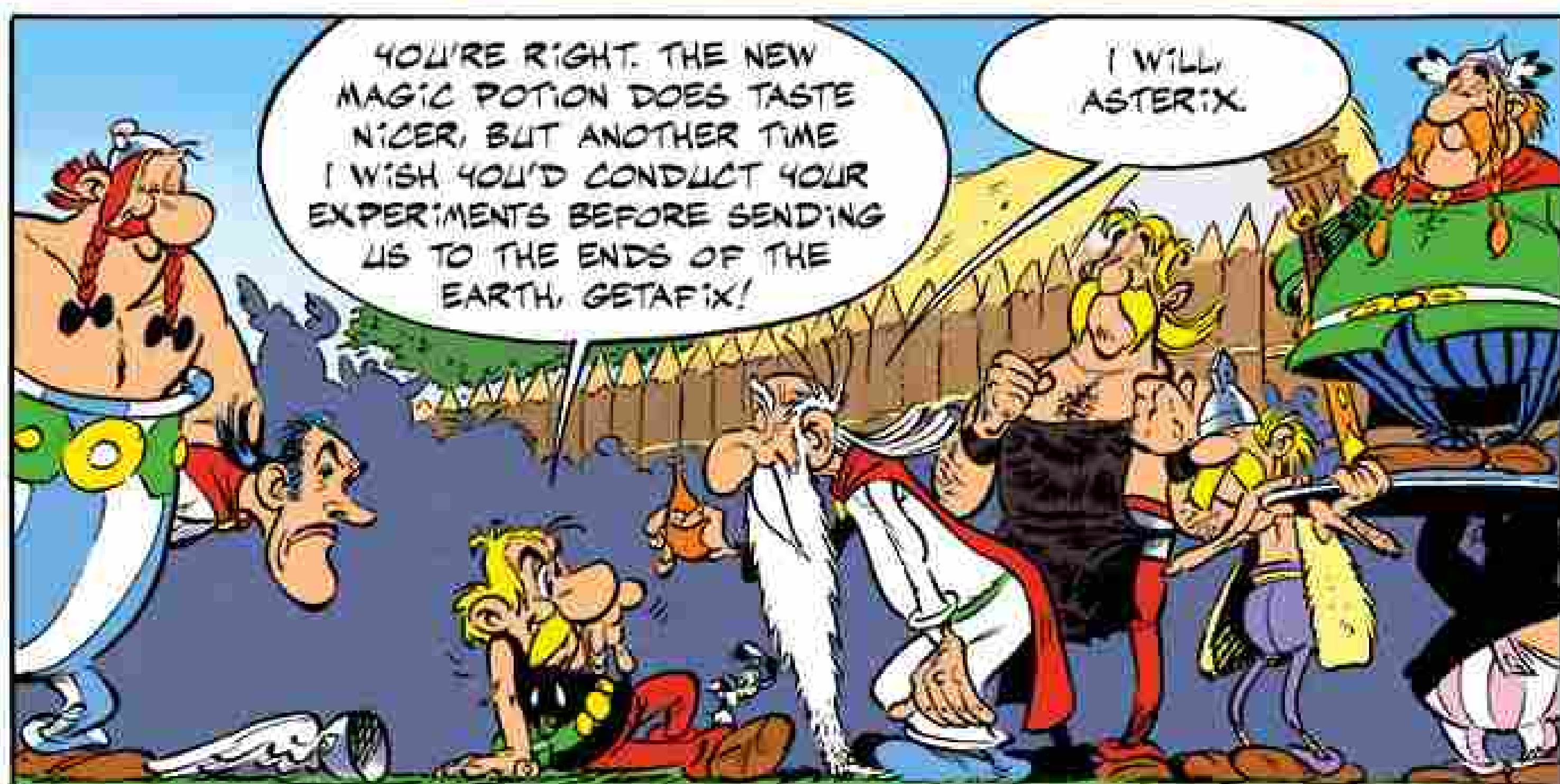
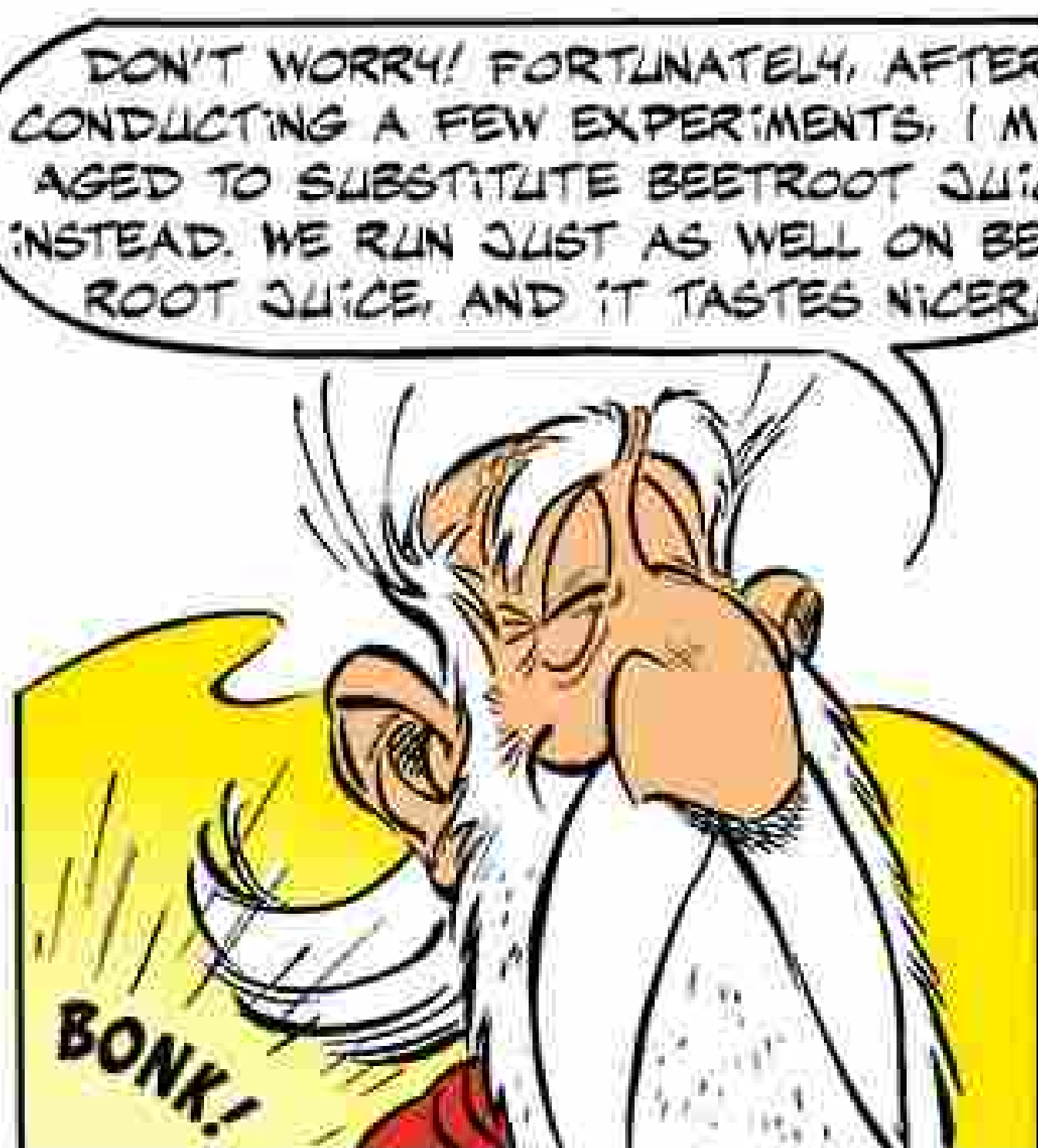
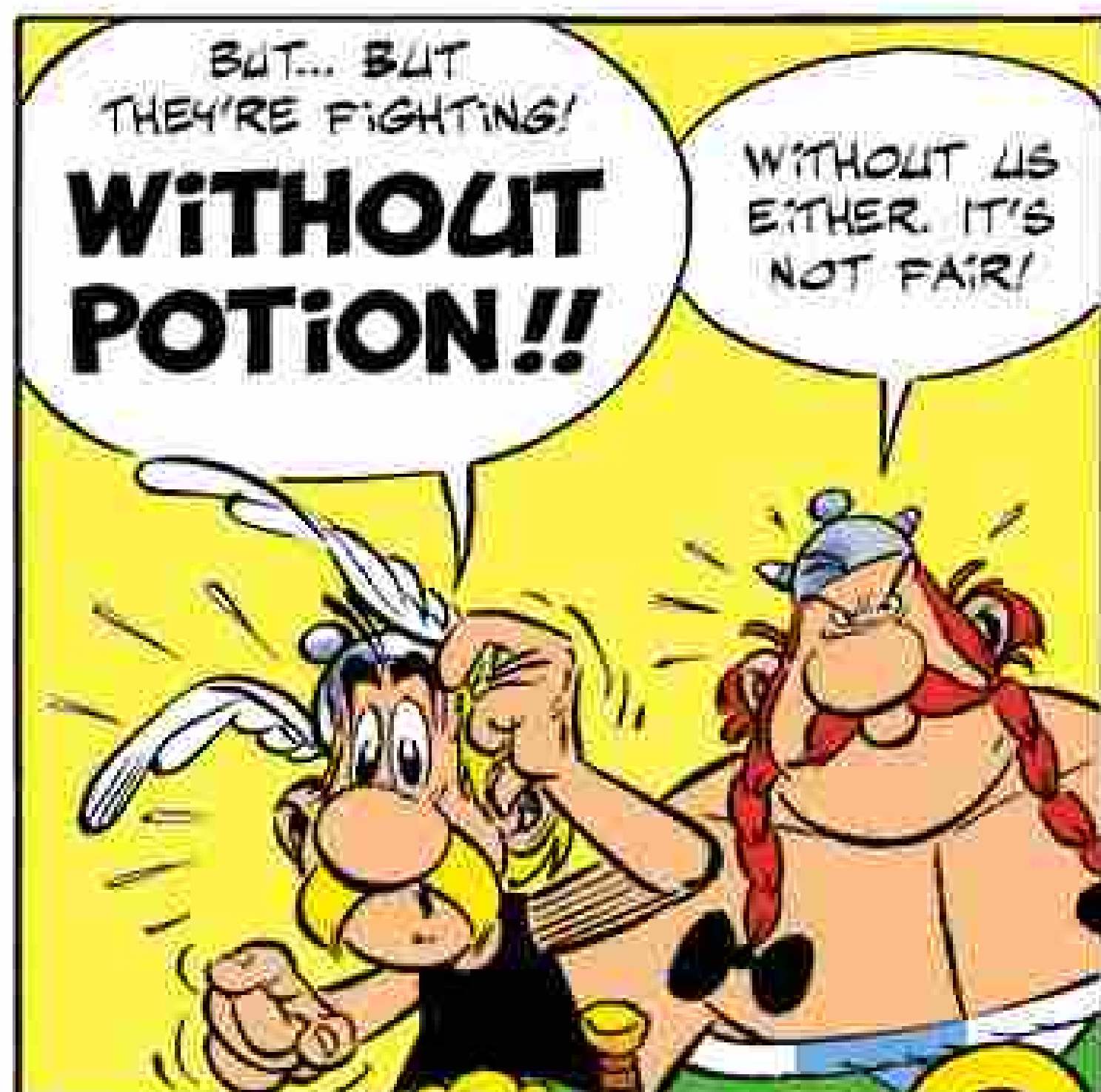
THE RETURN JOURNEY IS A PLEASANT IF ROUTINE KIND OF CRUISE...

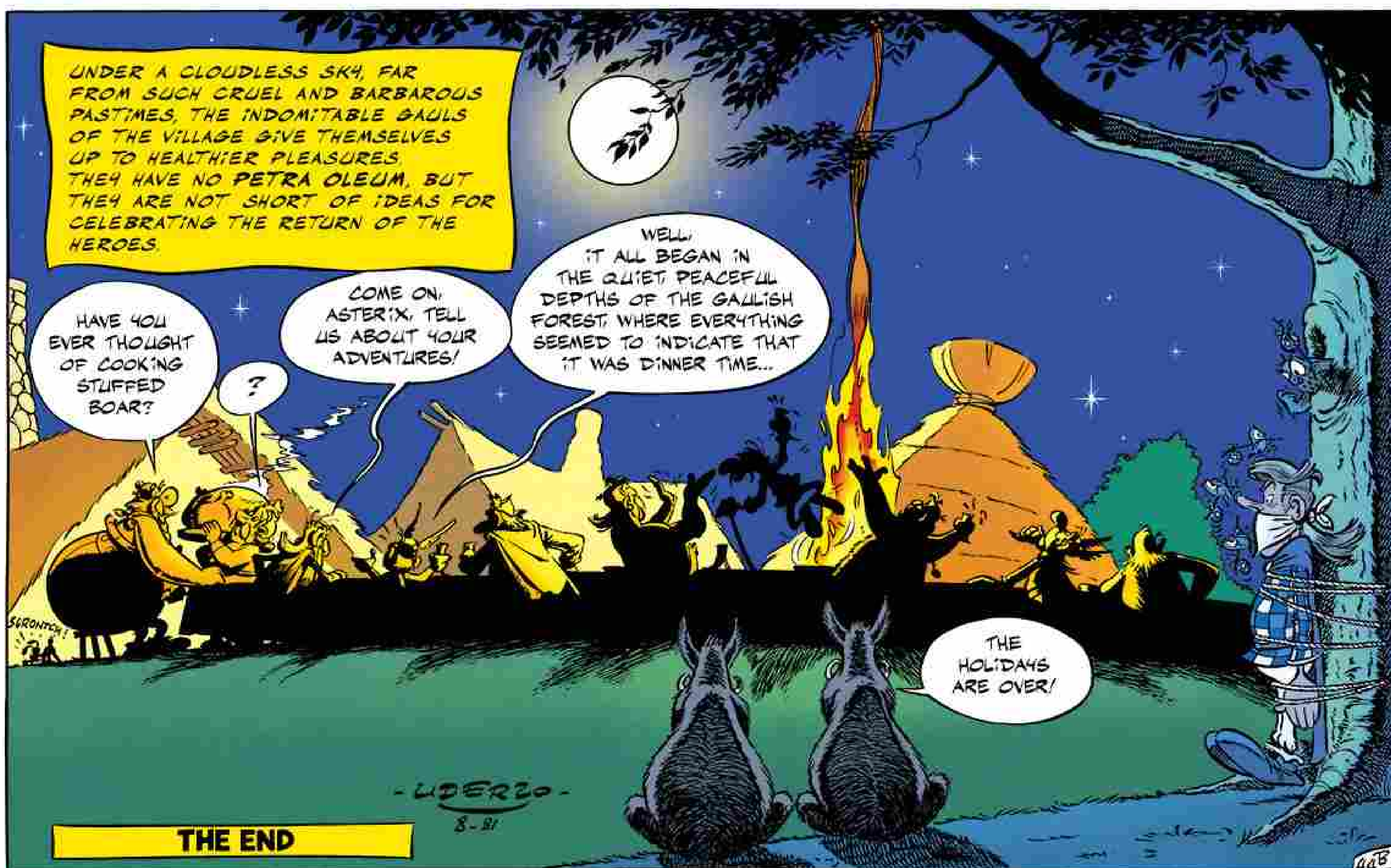
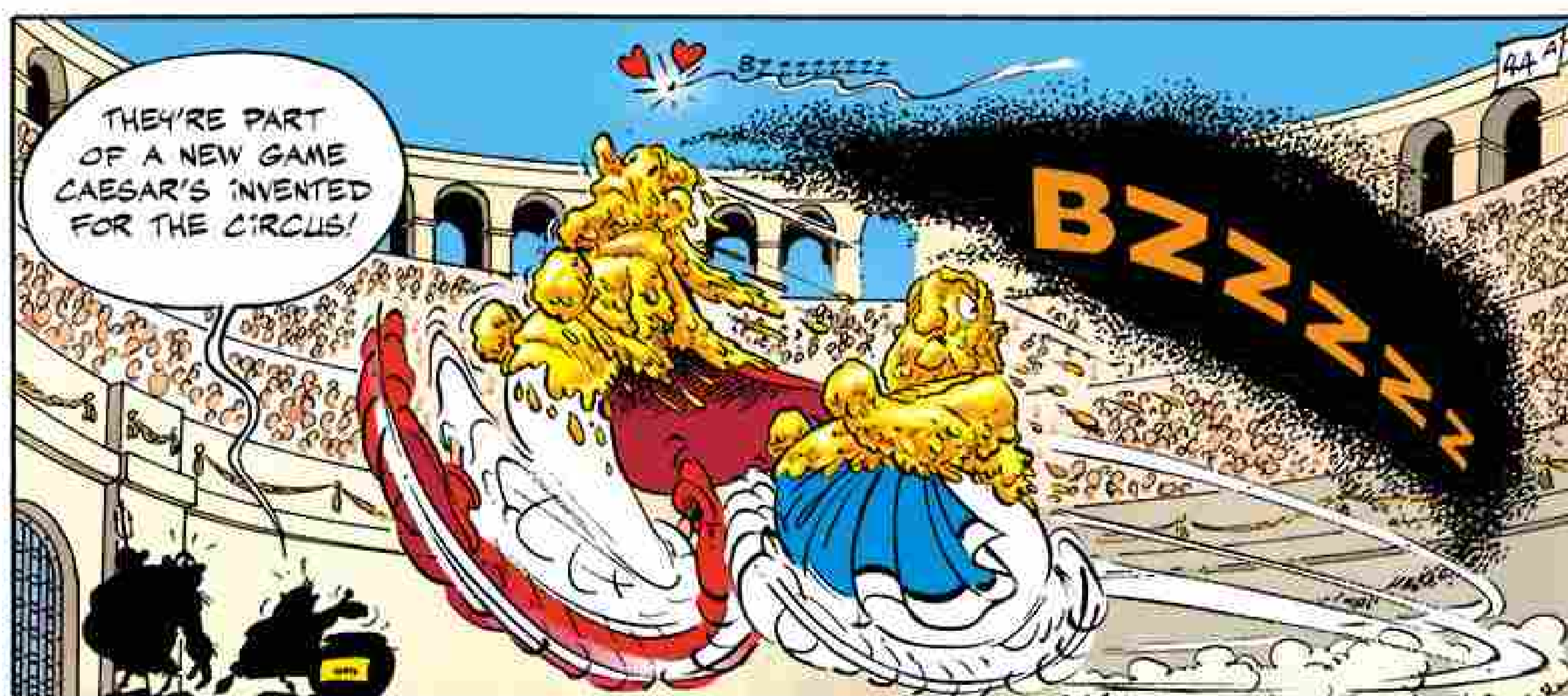
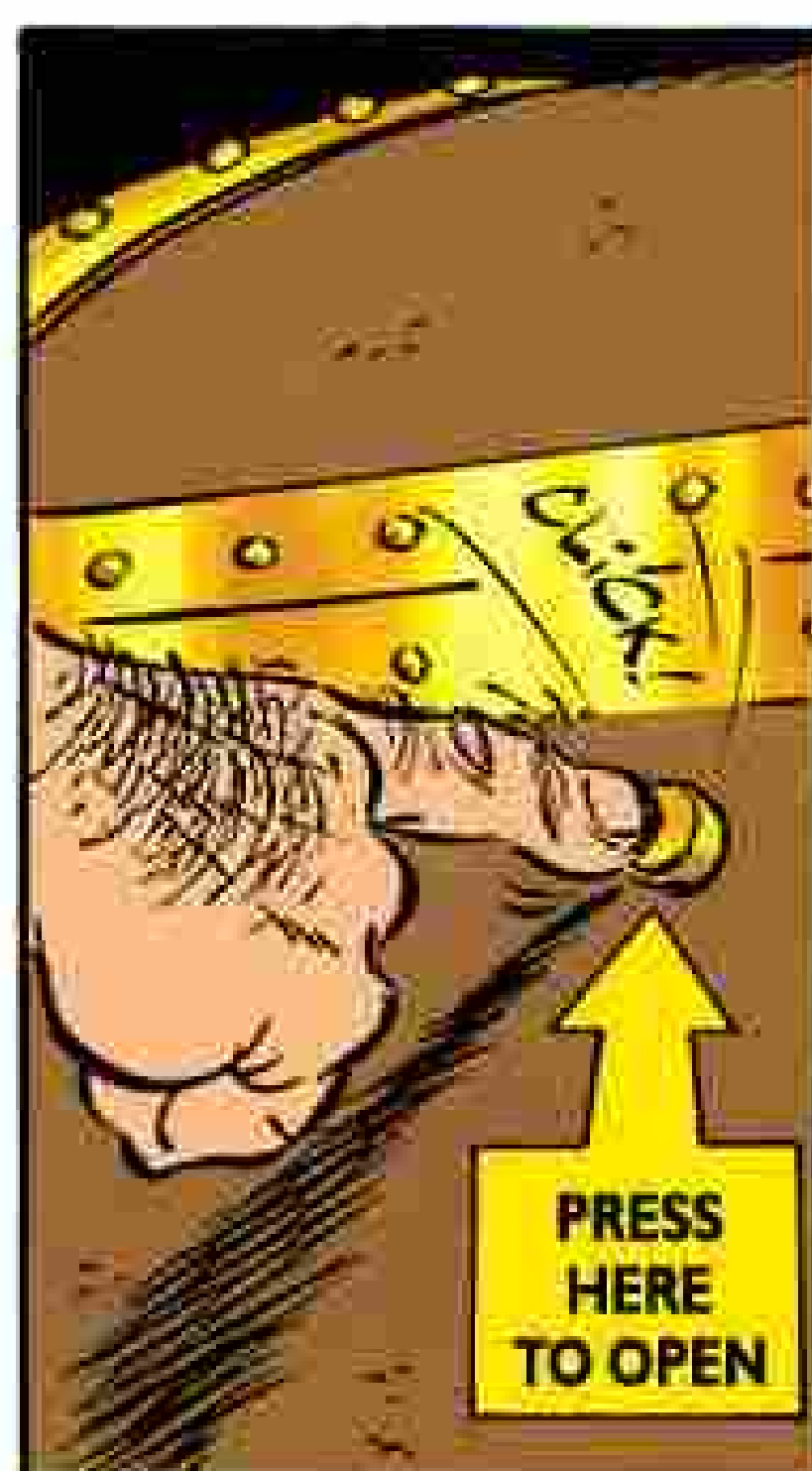


LATER...













I FEEL
A BIT WEAK,
GETAFIX ...

NO, OBELIX! YOU
ARE NOT HAVING ANY MAGIC
POTION! YOU KNOW VERY WELL
YOU FELL INTO THE CAULDRON
WHEN YOU WERE A BABY, AND
IT HAD A PERMANENT
EFFECT ON YOU!

Phoenician
merchant
Ekonomikrisis
has forgotten
the druid Getafix's
order for rock oil -
an essential ingredient
in the magic potion.
So Asterix and Obelix
go prospecting for
black gold in the Middle
East. Can they also outwit
the Roman secret agent
Dubbelosix and his amazing
folding chariot, equipped
with all the latest
spy gadgets?

